

THE
MONTHLY BULLETIN

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MARCH, 1896.

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ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

The number of cattle, sheep and horses in Argentina is now estimated (says *Sport and Pastime*) at 25,000,000, 80,000,000 and 5,000,000, respectively, as against about 17,000,000, 71,000,000 and 4,000,000 in 1887. The provinces which contain the largest numbers of cattle are Buenos Ayres, Entre Rios, Corrientes, Santa Fè and Cordoba. In the last census of the province of Buenos Ayres, in 1881, cattle were put down at 4,754,000, and sheep at 57,845,000.

The Tucuman Legislature has before it a project to start a cotton factory on a large scale there. Mr. Abraham Wilkes seeks a concession, and offers to begin with a factory to cost at least £100,000, without further encouragement than a monopoly for ten years and immunity from all local taxation.

Referring to the proposed visit of leading business men of the United States to the Republics of Argentina, Uruguay and Brazil, to which reference was made in the January Bulletin, it

is understood that the date of the visit depends upon the action of the various chambers of commerce of the leading cities of the United States.

Shippers to the River Plate are informed that the Argentine Government has recently announced that all packages destined for ports in the Argentine Republic, shall in future bear the respective marks or numbers on the sides and not on the tops. Failure to comply with this requirement will cause delay, and possibly return or confiscation of the goods.

The imports into the United Kingdom from Argentina in 1895 comprise the following articles and amounts, corresponding to those of 1894 :

	1894.	1895.
Wheat.....	13,272,152 cwt.	11,400,360 cwt.
Maize.....	.....	7,218,900 "
Oats.....	.....	96,760 "
Flour.....	.....	23,300 "
Hay ..	805 tons.	1,678 tons.

CHILE.

It is stated that the Government has made a contract with Mr. Charles Colson, of Bordeaux, France, to colonize 5,000 families in the southern portion of Chile.

[From advance sheets of United States Consular Reports for April, 1896.]

CHILEAN RECIPROCITY AND PERUVIAN TRADE.

The treaty of amity and reciprocity recently consummated between Chile and Bolivia and the proposed similar treaty between the first-named country and Brazil have created widespread concern in Peru.

The subject has been extensively discussed by leading journals of Lima, notably the *Comercio* and the *Opinion Nacional*. These journals agree in the opinion that the treaties referred to will affect injuriously the commercial interests of Peru by bringing the sugars, coffees and other products of Brazil into the Chilean markets on a basis of reciprocity, practically excluding the like products from Peru.

Some of the Chilean papers, however, are already advocating a similar treaty with Peru, and it is not improbable that public sentiment in Peru, which has so strongly at heart the redemption of Tacna and Arica, will influence the consummation of such a treaty, whereby the Peruvian markets would be more effectually closed than now to the breadstuffs and other products from the United States.

Since the treaty of Ancon, Chilean wheat and other products have, practically, enjoyed the monopoly of the Peruvian markets, but the *Comercio* and the *Opinion Nacional* argue that if reciprocity with Chile cannot be obtained, then negotiations should be opened with the United States to secure it there and to establish the steamship lines with the latter country required for its execution.

Chile would, perhaps, find greater difficulty to consummate reciprocity treaties with both Brazil and Peru were due weight given to the disproportion between the 20,000,000 of people in those two countries and the 3,000,000 in Chile, since it would be manifestly impossible for the latter to consume more than a proportionate quantity of the tropical products

raised by Brazil and Peru, whereas the latter countries could easily consume all the wheat and other products raised by Chile.

On the other hand, Peru would find in the United States a population of 70,000,000, whose accretions every five years exceed the actual total population of Chile. This great and growing population spend abroad annually \$100,000,000 for coffee, and a like sum for sugar. It is obvious, therefore, that Peru and other tropical countries of America would find a readier and broader market in the United States than in Chile. It may be assumed, also, that the United States will prefer to buy in countries where its products will enjoy equal competition, at least, with those of other nations.

Peru will rapidly augment the quantities of its products and its commerce in general when its railways are extended to the Amazon and to other parts of its wondrously fertile territory. It is to be hoped that the Peruvian Corporation, a company chiefly composed of English capitalists, which has been accorded the control of the principal railway lines now in existence for a period of more than sixty years, will soon see its interests in the extensions referred to and in the consequent colonization of the vast tracts of land it holds under its contract.

It is greatly to be regretted that American capitalists do not seem to have discovered the advisability of establishing the proper means of communication with the west coast of South America, as it is clear that, without such means, no agreements that our Government might make looking to the extension of our commerce in these parts could be successfully carried out.

LEON JASTREMSKI, *Consul.*

CALLAO, January 30, 1896.

CUBA.

[From advance sheets of United States Consular Reports for April, 1896.]

HARVESTING OF THE SUGAR CROP.

I inclose a translation of an account given in the *Boletin Comercial*, of last evening, of a conference held the day before by a commission representing the board of sugar planters with General Weyler, the present governor-general of this island, in which he gave assurance of his endeavors to enable the planters to commence the harvesting of their crops in the provinces of Pinar del Rio, Habana, Matanzas and Santa Clara by the middle of next month.

I beg to add, for the information of the Department, that I understand the planters of the two remaining provinces of the island—Puerto Principe and Santiago de Cuba—are making their crops, though not with the usual activity, being somewhat short of laborers.

RAMON O. WILLIAMS, *Consul-General*.

HABANA, February 14, 1896.

[Translation from *El Boletin Comercial*, of Habana, February 13, 1896.]

GEN. WEYLER AND THE SUGAR PLANTERS.

A committee representing the board of sugar planters conferred yesterday afternoon with the governor-general. The conference was lengthy and interesting, and the declarations of our first authority to the representatives of the principal industry of the island were highly satisfactory.

General Weyler told them that the situation was serious, but, notwithstanding its gravity, he would endeavor to facilitate the grinding of the cane by all the plantations in the provinces of Pinar del Rio, Habana, Matanzas and Santa Clara (Las Villas) by the middle of next month, and then added: "You can have detachments of mobilized volunteers for your plantations, you responding for their loyalty. I will furnish everything needed for their maintenance."

CUBA AND THE BEET SUGAR CROP.

I have the honor to enclose a translation of an extract from the *Boletin Comercial*, of this city, which may be of interest as illustrating the economic condition of Cuba.

RAMON O. WILLIAMS, *Consul-General*.

HABANA, February 14, 1896.

[Translation from *El Boletín Comercial*, of Habana, February 12, 1896.]

THE EUROPEAN BEET SUGAR CROP.

From the latest newspapers received, reaching to the 23d ultimo, we extract the following accounts :

"The advices from Cuba have induced the cultivators of beets to prepare for a considerable increase in the sowing of the seed, and large contracts have been made for the next crop at prices varying between 25 and 26 francs per metric ton, base 7 degrees of density, which are agreeably acceptable to the cultivators, and as only an increase of 12 per cent. in the planting is necessary to offset the deficiency in Cuba, it is probable that the production of the beet sugar crop of Europe will largely exceed the 600,000 tons additional that will be required by the general consumption, which has averaged 7,500,000 tons during the last few years."

In consequence of the great extension now being given in all the beet sugar countries, it is feared, with reason, that a surplus production will again depress the market, and to the end of evading the decline in next year's price that is already glimmering, one of the principal factories of France writes to the *Journal des Fabricants de Sucre*, of Paris, asking its aid in bringing about an agreement between all the European sugar factories for their closure on the 5th of next December at the latest.

SUGAR CROP OF CUBA.

I inclose a statement prepared by Don Joaquin Gumá, a competent sugar statistician, of the export and stock of sugar in this island on the 31st ultimo, showing that only 23,809 tons had been received up to that date of this year's crop, against 145,337 tons received at the same date last year.

RAMON O. WILLIAMS, *Consul-General*.

HABANA, February 7, 1896.

Statement of Exports and Stock of Sugars, January 31, 1896, compared with the same date, 1895.

PROVINCES.	1895.			1896.		
	SACKS.	HHDS.	TONS.	SACKS.	HHDS.	TONS.
<i>Exports.</i>						
Habana	68,497			298,182		
Matanzas	31,220			33,608		
Cardenas	46,019					
Cienfuegos	66,438			2,500		
Sagua la Grande	28,339					
Caibarién				19,590		
Guantanamo	9,790			2,810		
Cuba	21,270					
Manzanillo				8,900		
Nuevitas						
Gibara						
Zaza						
Trinidad						
Total	271,582		37,585	365,590		50,595
<i>Stock.</i>						
Habana	257,750	32		314,287	50	
Matanzas	193,438			13,289		
Cardenas	124,045			1,985		
Cienfuegos	66,293			11,908	178	
Sagua la Grande	36,766					
Caibarién	72,060			4,050		
Guantanamo	31,724			30,514		
Cuba	10,166			2,890		
Manzanillo	34,334			15,300		
Nuevitas	4,150			6,980		
Gibara	3,208					
Zaza	2,106					
Trinidad	8,500					
Total	844,540	32	116,900	401,203	228	55,681
Local consumption, 1 month						
			154,485			106,276
			4,200			4,200
Stock, Jan. 1, old crop						
			158,685			110,476
			13,348			86,667
Receipts up to Jan. 31 in ports						
			145,337			23,809

NOTE.—Sacks of 310 pounds, hogsheads of 1,550 pounds, tons of 2,240 pounds.

JOAQUIN GUMÁ.

HABANA, January 31, 1896.

EXPORTS OF SUGAR.

I have the honor to submit the following approximate statement of the exports of sugar from this island (mostly remaining over out of last year's crop) during the months of January and February of this year. From the Provinces of Habana, Matanzas, Cardenas, Cienfuegos, Sagua la Grande, and Caibarien—to United States, 420,290 bags; from the same provinces to Spain, 14,393 bags; total, 434,682 bags. This shows the following percentages: To the United States, 96.68; to Spain, 3.32.

Communication with the rest of the island being interrupted, there is no attainable data, at present, of the exports from Guantanamo, Santiago de Cuba, Manzanillo, Zaza, Trinidad, Gibara, and Nuevitas, from which ports nearly all the shipments of sugar go to the United States.

RAMON O. WILLIAMS, *Consul-General.*

HABANA, March 3, 1896.

The sugar planters in this part of Cuba are grinding the unburned portion of their cane. The work is materially retarded because plantation hands can not be induced to work at night, fearing an attack of the insurgents. Whether planters will be allowed by the insurgents to continue sugar making, remains problematical. The greater part of the insurgent forces are now several hundred miles west of here, and it is possible that sugar making may proceed undisturbed; if so, I predict half a crop in my consular district.

PULASKI F. HYATT, *Consul.*

SANTIAGO DE CUBA, February 1, 1896.

FRENCH GUIANA.

(From advance sheets United States Consular Reports for April, 1895.)

RESOURCES, TRADE, ETC.

I submit herewith my commercial report for the year 1895. I have made the utmost efforts to obtain all the particulars of interest concerning the trade and mining and agricultural operations in this colony. It has been very difficult to procure reliable data, the official statistics being very defective.

POPULATION.

The population of French Guiana at the date of the last census (October last) was as follows:

COMMUNES.	Inhabitants.	COMMUNES.	Inhabitants.
Cayenne.....	12,351	Iracoubo.....	614
Roura.....	747	Mana.....	1,602
Tonnegrande.....	291	Oyapock.....	866
Montsinery.....	325	Appronague.....	554
Matoury.....	343	Kaw.....	213
Kemire.....	577	Maroni.....	1,279
Macouria.....	754		
Kourou.....	822		
Sinnamary.....	1,376	Total.....	22,714

To this number should be added 3,979 convicts, 1,817 banished (relegués), 300 Bonis (Indian negroes), and about 1,500 primitive Indian inhabitants belonging to the colony, which give a total population of 30,310, an increase over the last census of 1,893.

GOLD PRODUCTION.

This increase in population seems to be the result of the new discoveries of gold mines in the contested territory between France and Brazil in Carswene, Couvani and other places, where there was a rush of miners of all ages and of all nations, attracted by the really marvelous results obtained by the first prospectors.

From the official statistics made up December 1, 1895, it appears that during the first eleven months of 1895 1,808,796 kilograms of melted gold and 670,771 kilograms in dust were exported, against 3,877,243 kilograms and 533.11 kilograms in 1894. Following is the statement published in the *Moniteur de la Guyane*: Quantity of gold entered at the custom-house of Cayenne from the 1st of January, 1895, to the 30th of November, 2,336,347 kilograms; gold entered in December, 1895, 441,154 kilograms; total for the twelve months of 1895, 2,807,501 kilograms. The total production of the contested territory (Carswene and Coumani) was 1,921,313 kilograms for the year; the other mining districts, 886,188 kilograms only.

GENERAL TRADE.

From any other point of view, the local trade has not progressed as much as the increase of population would seem to warrant. Following is a statement of the colony's produce exported during 1895:

ARTICLES.	AMOUNT.
Odoriferous nuts kilograms.	30
Cacao, crude..... .. "	14,894
Coffee..... .. "	67
Conac..... .. "	53
Feathers for dress..... .. "	35
Tafia and rum..... .. liters.	220,851
Fish sounds..... .. kilograms.	634.5
Building wood..... .. cubic meters.	194
Oxhides..... .. number.	1,599
Native gold, melted..... .. kilograms.	1,808,796
" unmelted..... .. "	670,771
Phosphate rock..... .. "	4,210,136
Auriferous quartz "	546
Essence de bois de Rose (essence of rosewood)..... .. kilograms.	374

The exportation of phosphate rock of the Grand Connétable was 4,210,136 kilograms, against 6,378,130 kilograms during the same period of 1894. The result of the falling off is a smaller number of vessels reported as going to take cargo from that island. The deposits are far from being overworked. No cabinet-work wood was shipped in 1895, and but 194 cubic meters of building-wood, although the French Guiana forests are full of trees, the wood of which is highly appreciated and sought after as being most valuable for building, especially for railroads, naval construction, etc.

Two Guianese manufacturers are engaged in the production of the "essence de bois de Rose"—common rosewood essence. The output is of very little importance (574 kilograms).

BALATA GUM.

An interesting point for the future development of French Guiana was debated some years ago without any practical result, viz, the working of balata gum, similar to, and even better than the ordinary india-rubber. A scheme of regulations for grants of concessions was elaborated in 1892 by the director of the interior; but they were soon found to be defective, and a new plan, stimulated by the discussions of the consul-general, is now being perfected and it is thought it will answer all the requirements of future grantees in helping forward their searches.

On the 5th of December, 1895, thirty concessions for the balata industry had been granted to people in the colony and two or three granted in France and Europe. A concession has just been given to the representative of an important company of New York (Franco-American India-Rubber Company) under special conditions agreed upon between Mr. J. M. Jean and the Director of Interior. Up to the present, the above company is in the "prospecting" stage; however, it seems to be satisfied with the first results, and was able in a very short time to ship to New York about 308 kilograms of india rubber ("gomme de balata").

SCARCITY OF LABOR.

Several efforts have been made to introduce into French Guiana laborers needed for agriculture and other industries, as the mining industry is taking all the best hands that could be had. The last scheme was to secure the immigration of Senegalese. In the preliminary efforts, over 100,000 francs have been spent. The result of the experiment is yet to be seen.

HIGHER DUTY ON MOLASSES.

High protective duties have been imposed on molasses coming from foreign ports of Cayenne, and this increase has greatly injured an important distillery and other distilleries of less consequence. Not being able to get their supply on the market, these distilleries were importing their molasses from the neighboring colonies—Georgetown, Paramaribo and Barbados.

CACAO CULTURE.

The cacao seed, which is of the best quality in French Guiana and superior to Caracas cacao, is scarcely exported on account of the want of laborers. Good results would follow the development of the cacao industry, together with the culture of annatto (rocou), now abandoned. There is a great number of wild cacao trees in the forest. The wild fruit has a bitter taste, but it might be easily removed by a process known, it is said, by the native Amazon Indians, which some travelers are trying to learn.

HYGIENIC CONDITIONS AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

In my opinion, and I have been living in this country for twenty-three years, the reputation for insalubrity of French Guiana is not deserved, at least, to the degree usually supposed. The difficulties as to food and lodging accommodations have been increased by the great number of people arriving here. Cayenne has no boarding houses, no good hotels, and the lack of comfort and conveniences for travelers has doubtless much to do with creating unfavorable impressions of the country.

The lands of the colony are among the best on the globe. The forests contain all sorts of trees and medicinal plants, such as sarsaparilla and others. Cacao, sugar cane, cotton, coffee trees, producing "café de la montagne d'argent"—a very scarce and celebrated coffee—grow luxuriantly, but all these valuable resources are undeveloped for lack of laborers to till the soil.

The principal source of Government revenue is the produce of the gold mines. This is essentially uncertain and at any moment may fail. A few thousands of laborers introduced into the colony would raise this country to an economic condition which would be worthy of serious attention.

LEON WACONGNE, *Consul*.

CAVENNE, January 31, 1896.

HONDURAS.

TRADE WITH THE UNITED STATES.

From a report received by the Department of State from Mr. William M. Little, Consul at Tegucigalpa, on the subject of the trade between Honduras and the United States, and suggesting measures for increasing it, the following is taken :

After making an exhibit of the commerce of Honduras with the United States and other countries, Consul Little says :

The United States being a comparatively new and growing country, its merchants in many lines of business have not yet found it to their interest to push their trade in foreign lands, especially in those in which the total amount of business is so small as it is in Honduras. It pays them better to push their trade at home. They can, perhaps, obtain more new trade in a few growing western towns than they could in all Honduras.

The merchants of the United States are not so free to give credit in this country as are the European merchants. In the comparatively few cases in which they extend credit, it is for not more than ninety days. English and German merchants give from four to nine months' credit. It is altogether possible that the experience of recent years has shown the greater wisdom of American merchants in the matter of extending credit here. The American trade in this country is no doubt in a healthier state than the European.

The larger European houses which do business in Honduras and other Central American Republics are accustomed to send their salesmen at regular intervals to look after their trade here. This is a much more effective way of advertising goods and building up trade in these countries than the method of sending out samples on which American merchants (except those of San Francisco) depend almost entirely.

In addition to the general advantages of forming personal connections and ascertaining the tastes and wants of their customers, the method adopted by the European merchants has this special advantage : while some of the dealers here are not such as to warrant the extension of

credit, a great many are deserving of such credit. The only effective way of determining who the latter are, is to send out regular salesmen.

The merchants of the United States have the reputation of packing goods sent to this country with less care than do the English, German and French merchants. Goods intended for inland points should be packed securely because of the rough handling they receive; and goods liable to damage from water, when they are to arrive during the rainy season (from May to November), should be packed water-tight. All duties are charged upon gross weight of package, and hence goods should be packed as light as possible. This reputation of European merchants for using greater care in packing goods has influence especially on the trade in notions.

By far the greater part of goods imported into the country are introduced at Amapala, the port on the Pacific side. From New York to Amapala there is no competing line of steamers. The cost of transportation from England and Germany is considerably less than that from New York. The rates vary slightly from time to time, but the following, recently obtained, may be taken to be representative:

New York to Amapala, via Panama, per ton of 40 cu. ft., in bales..	\$28 00
“ “ “ “ “ “ in cases..	24 00
England to Amapala, via Panama, per ton of 40 cu. ft., in bales..	23 75
“ “ “ “ “ “ in cases..	20 00
Hamburg “ “ “ “ bales and cases.	21 00
“ “ Cape Horn “ “ cases and wt ..	11 50

The time needed for transportation via Cape Horn is, of course, greater than that via Panama; but in the case of many lines of goods this becomes comparatively unimportant when the much smaller cost of transportation is considered. Moreover, goods shipped via Cape Horn are not so subject to breakage as goods shipped via Panama, the latter being subject to two transfers at the isthmus. For these reasons glassware and goods which, though having a relatively small cost price, fill a large space, are imported almost exclusively via Cape Horn on the vessels of the German Kosmos and Kirsten lines. Nearly all goods imported through the customhouses of Puerto Cortes, Truxillo and Ceiba, the ports of entry on the Atlantic side, come from the United States. Most of the larger inland towns being, however, more accessible to Amapala, the greater part of goods consumed in the country are entered through this port.

In a good many lines of goods, such as flour and other breadstuffs, tools and machinery, the United States has almost a monopoly of the trade. The amount of wines and other liquors imported from California is quite large and is increasing steadily. The trade in the cheaper grades of cotton goods is growing, and there are reasons for believing that the American manufacturers can, by making some efforts, gain the

ascendancy in this trade. In the lower grades of cotton goods—the kind mostly used in this country—the American article is considered superior in quality to the English. It is said that such goods made in England are often stamped as, and represented to be, American goods. The American manufacturers of printed cotton goods could no doubt make their goods more in demand in this market by having more regard to the tastes of the buyers. The larger houses in this country sell goods by the piece to a great number of dealers who carry on a small retail business. For this reason the merchants in this country prefer the cloth put up in bolts of 20, 30 and 40 yards.

The mills in the south of the United States are beginning to do this, and now nearly all of the cotton goods imported through ports on the Atlantic side are brought from New Orleans and Mobile. The manufacturers of certain articles of hardware in common use might increase their trade here by making cheaper articles for this market. The masses of the people are poor and are not able to buy expensive implements. The German merchants have a large part of the trade in the cheaper lines of hardware.

This report is based upon observations made during the past year and a-half and upon inquiries made from time to time of traveling salesmen and representative merchants in the country. It is applicable in the main to the trade of the United States with the other Central American Republics, as well as to that with Honduras. There are reasons for believing that the trade of the United States with these countries will be greatly expanded in the near future. Up to the present time the great bulk of goods imported into these countries (except Costa Rica) has been introduced through the ports on the Pacific coast. The United States, notwithstanding its proximity, has enjoyed no cheaper freight rates than the European countries. On the contrary, as shown above, the advantage in this respect has been in favor of the European countries, especially Germany.

It is a question of only a few years before there will be several cheaper and quicker routes by which goods may be imported into these countries from the south of the United States. The railroad across the Isthmus of Tehautepec is completed, and it is reasonable to suppose that before a great while there will be steamship connections with this road and New Orleans and other southern ports of the United States, thereby making these ports much more accessible to the Pacific ports of Central America. A railroad is being built from Puerto Barrios, Guatemala, to the City of Guatemala, to connect with the road already existing between the latter place and San José, the Pacific port. It is thought that this road will be completed within three years. It is likely that a road will soon connect the steamers on the Rama River with the lake steamers of Nicaragua, thus giving through transportation by steam across Nicaragua. Certain American capitalists are at present negotiating with the Government of

Honduras in regard to the consolidation of the foreign debt of the country and the resumption of the construction of the inter-oceanic railway of Honduras. The building of this road is among the possibilities of the near future. The completion of these several roads will no doubt be followed by better steamship connections with the southern ports of the United States by the great internal development of the Central American Republics—increasing thereby the consequence of the trade in these countries—and by a more lucrative commerce between these countries and the United States.

JAMAICA.

MINERAL PAINT DEPOSITS.

Professor Hill, of the United States Geological Survey, has recently made an extended investigation of the geological stratum of the island of Jamaica. In an interview with a representative of the *Kingston (Jamaica) Gleaner*, as to the result of his visit, he said :

I observe that the country is very rich in mineral paints, such as ochre and sienna, and also in phosphates. There are, I believe, large beds of all these which would well repay working. It is strange that so little has been done to develop these natural resources. I met an American gentleman only the other day who had been looking out for mineral paints, and he thought there was a big opening out here. I think the presence of so much phosphate in the soil accounts for a good deal of the fertility of Jamaica ; but still a systematic investigation would be of the utmost benefit, and should prove of especial value to agriculturists.

MEXICO.

The following facts concerning Mexico, its manufacturing, mining and agricultural conditions, and the opportunities for investment of capital, are taken from a recent number of the *Mexican Financier*:

ITS GOVERNMENT AND PRESENT SITUATION.

Mexico is now on friendly terms with all the American and European Powers. By means of General Diaz's stable, wise and economic government, public credit and safety have been restored and guaranteed. The country has entered upon an age of development and prosperity. Railroad enterprises, as well as public improvements, which have increased domestic and foreign trade considerably, are fostered financially, legally and morally. Public schools have been established in large numbers, while hearty encouragement, through the progressiveness of Secretary Fernandez Leal, is given to all researches calculated to benefit mining and agriculture. The people are contented, happy and busy, endeavoring to develop the country's wonderful resources, which are still in an inviting condition for the investment of capital. The general stability of Mexico is secure, and its prospects are also rendered brighter by the undoubted capacity of its soil to yield the products of every clime.

INVESTMENTS.

There are excellent openings for investment of capital in gold and silver mines, in short lines of railway, as feeders or to tap mineral districts, purchases of large tracts of land for sub-division or agricultural purposes, stock raising, and the cultivation of coffee, tobacco and sugarcane, as well as the establishment of commercial and agricultural banks, of electric light plants, telephone exchanges, breweries, electric and other industries, water-works, such as irrigation canals, dams, etc. Another advantageous investment in Mexico would be the construction of tenement houses and dwellings in the outskirts of the cities, principally in Mexico, San Luis Potosi, Monterey, Guadalajara, Puebla, Orizaba, Vera Cruz and Oaxaca, for artisans and clerks with moderate salaries. These great wants, and that of first-class hotels in the above cities, would give a handsome return upon the capital invested.

MINING.

The mining resources of Mexico are vast in extent. Gold and silver abound in all the States of the Mexican Union, excepting one or two. The metalliferous region of Mexico embraces upwards of 2,300 kilometers from the commencement of the high tableland in Sonora, Chihuahua, Coahuila and Nuevo Leon to the extreme south of Oaxaca, where it is interrupted in the lowlands of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec, ending in the highlands of Chiapas. Iron, copper, lead, zinc, mercury, tin, platinum, onyx, asbestos and coal occur in several localities.

MANUFACTURES.

The manufactures of the country may be summed up as follows: Cotton and woolen goods, carpets, leather works of every kind, hats, soap, matches, silk, glass, pottery, furniture, marble works, rope, brooms, brushes, matting, palm-leaf works, common paper, carts, sugar, flour, indigo, brick, tiles, wine and alcoholic liquors. There is not sufficient of the articles here named manufactured for home consumption, and in some of the States few of them are manufactured at all.

AGRICULTURE.

Agriculture is still in its infancy, and if the fertile soil of the country were as generally under cultivation as that of the United States or Europe, no anxiety need be felt regarding depreciation of silver, bonds, or any kind of security. Owing to the climatic conditions, two and three crops (of corn) per year can be raised, and the farmer is enabled to cultivate his land during the entire year. The field products which offer the best future are stock-raising and its products, coffee, sugar cane, tobacco, corn and rice; fibres, such as henequen, ixtle, ramie, silk, jute, flax and cotton; tropical fruits, such as bananas, pineapples, oranges and lemons, and cabinet woods and broom root. The following is the profit in the above articles: Cattle cost from \$3.00 to \$5.00 to raise, and sell for \$12.00 to \$15.00 a head. Corn yields 33 *quintals per acre, costs $\frac{1}{4}$ cent, and sells for 1 to 2 cents per lb. Tobacco yields 30 quintals per acre, costs $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents, and sells for 6 to 10 cents per lb. Coffee yields from 500 to 750 lbs. per acre, costs from $7\frac{1}{2}$ to 9 cents per lb., and sells for 25 to 28 cents per lb. Sugar cane yields 7,000 lbs. to the acre, costs 1 cent, and sells from 3 to 5 cents a lb. Cotton yields 400 lbs. to the acre, costs 8 cents, and sells for 14 to 16 cents a lb. Rice yields 1,680 to 2,000 lbs. per acre, costs $1\frac{1}{4}$ cents, and sells for 3 to 4 cents a lb. Bananas yield 1,000 to 1,500 bunches to the acre, cost $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 cents per bunch, and sell for 25 cents. Where cacao, rubber and vanilla grow, coffee does not thrive well, excepting on lands north of Vera Cruz.

It is not advisable to come into the country with less than \$1,000 gold as working capital.

* A Mexican quintal is equal to 101.61 pounds.

The contract with the Gas and Electric Light Company of Mexico, an English corporation, for the lighting of Mexico City, will expire in August of the present year, and it is thought probable that tenders will be called for by the municipal government for the lighting of the city under a new arrangement. The city lighting service at present consists of 332 arc lamps of 2,000 candle power, 196 arc lamps of 1,200 candle power, 114 gas lamps and 1,514 oil lamps. The service costs about \$230,000 per annum on an average. It is the desire of the municipal government to supersede the primitive and deficient oil illumination with arc lamps, increasing the number of the latter to between 800 and 900.

Yucatan exported during 1895, 134,136,428 lbs. of henequen, for which \$6,112,198 were received. On the above exportation the sum of \$160,963 was paid as State duties, and \$346,520 as Federal duties. The total of duties paid was, therefore, \$507,483, or $8\frac{1}{3}$ per cent. The following table shows the quantities of henequen in pounds taken in 1895 by the several countries mentioned :

	Pounds.
United States.....	121,217,833
England... ..	5,011,031
Cuba	2,395,482
Belgium.....	1,881,647
Germany.....	1,786,805
Spain.....	984,198
France....	836,268
Italy.....	23,164
Total	134,136,428

REVENUE FROM IMPORT AND EXPORT DUTIES.

The revenue from the Mexican import duties for February last, amounted to \$1,900,000 against \$1,355,000 in February, 1895, being an increase of \$545,000. The export duties for the same month were \$123,000, the port dues \$51,000; total \$2,074,000. These figures show a total increase of \$3,153,000 from July 1st, 1895 to February 29th, 1896, as compared with the corresponding period of the preceding fiscal year.

PERU.

CONSULAR INVOICES.

The Government of Peru has issued the following regulations regarding all merchandise arriving from foreign countries entering Peruvian ports, to take effect from the 1st of March, 1896:

ARTICLE 124. There must be presented at the Peruvian Consulate four similar copies of consular invoices to each bill of lading. Each invoice must give the following particulars:

(a) The name of the sender, the port of shipment, the name of the consignee, or, *if to order*, the port of destination, and the name of the vessel.

(b) The mark, number, quantity and description of packages, gross weight of each package, net weight of the goods, together with its wrappage (if any) of each package, measurement of each package, measurement of each package in centimetres, material, quality and name of the goods of each package, its value and the origin of the goods.

(c) The quantity shall be given in kilograms, metres, dozens, grosses, &c., according to the classification of the customhouse tariffs.

ART. 125. The interested party should sign at foot of the invoice, and on parole d'honneur (word of honor) that the declaration of goods as stated is correct; that signature making the consular invoice of legal force in case of need.

ART. 129. Senders, in order to prove the correctness of their declarations, shall, without fail, accompany their consular invoices with a copy of the respective bill of lading (neither stamped nor signed), and the original invoices from the sellers or manufacturers, which will be returned after having been examined in connection with the consular invoice.

(a) The consular invoice shall be written out in the Spanish language.

(b) The consular fee shall be one per cent. (1%) on the amount declared in the invoice.

[From advance sheets United States Consular Reports April, 1896.]

INSURANCE COMPANIES.

Minister McKenzie writes to the Department from Lima, under date of December 31, 1895, transmitting a copy of a decree of the President, dated December 21, 1895, in relation to insurance companies in Peru. Mr. McKenzie states that under the operations of this decree a number of foreign insurance companies will no longer transact business in Peru.

In Article 1, the decree provides that the establishing of life, fire and marine insurance companies or of their agents, branch establishments, or offices will not be permitted in Peru unless they previously enter their partnership or company agreements in the register designated by Article 18 of the commercial code, making mention of all the points required by Article 234 of the same code.

ART. 2. Powers of attorney given in legal form by companies established abroad to agents or persons appointed by them as their representatives in this country, empowering the latter without restriction to arrange judicially or extrajudicially such questions as may arise, must be entered at the same time in the same register.

ART. 3. Insurance companies or their agents and representatives shall declare in the same entry the effective capital assigned for their operations in the Republic.

ART. 4. The smallest effective capital for the establishing of an insurance company, branch, or agent's office that, in accordance with the foregoing article, may be declared, is 100,000 soles silver.

ART. 5. National insurance companies or the branches, offices or agencies of such companies as are established abroad shall invest 30 per cent. of the effective capital set apart for their operations in Peru in immovable property situated within the limits of the Republic, duly entered in the immovable property registry, or in title deeds, or in public credit bonds, municipal bonds, or in shares of private or public companies, or in gold, or in national coin, at the election of the managers or agents of the respective companies. Investments made in the form of title deeds, bonds, shares or specie must be deposited in the banks of this capital.

ART. 6. Insurance companies shall have free liberty to dispose of the rents yielded by their immovable property, as also of the dividends or interest produced by their deposited shares or cash investments.

ART. 7. A period of six months (which will not be extended) is granted to insurance companies now established in the country to comply with the obligations hereby imposed.

ART. 8. The policies granted by insurance companies comprehended by this law shall be printed in the Spanish language, and it shall be

clearly expressed in the said policies that the issuing company accepts the national jurisdiction in all questions arising between it and the holder.

ART. 9. The Government will appoint one of the superior officers of the Finance Department to see that the companies, branches, and agents fulfill their registry obligations, as stipulated in Article 1, as also that the guaranties and prescriptions enacted by the present law be effective and sound, and will close up such companies, branches, or agencies as fail to comply with the same, and will further exact the publication of each company's balance sheet at least once in every six months.

ART. 10. In case any insurance company, branch, or agency decides to wind up its business in Peru, it will have to apply to the judge of the first instance at the place where it is established. The said judge will order the petition to be published for fifteen days in two of the most extensively circulated newspapers published in the same place, and will, at the same time, notify the Ministry of Finance, to the end that the latter give advice of the same to the prefect of the respective department, with a view to the matter being made known to the public. If, at the expiration of ninety days after the publication of the advices in the newspapers, no opposition be made on account of responsibilities existing for which the company is liable, the judge, after consulting the attorney of state, will grant the petition. Should there be opposition, the judge will fix a peremptory term of fifteen days to ascertain if the same be well founded, and, after consulting the attorney of state, will decide the case at once in accordance with justice. Either side may appeal against the judge's decision.

AMENDMENT TO PATENT LAW.

I have the honor to inclose herewith, with translation, a copy of an amendment to the Peruvian patent law, passed by the Peruvian Congress on the 3d of this present month, and which is in force from the 10th of January, 1896, the date of its publication.

J. A. MCKENZIE, *Minister.*

LIMA, January 11, 1896.

[Translation.]

AMENDMENT TO THE PERUVIAN PATENT LAW.

ARTICLE 1. Persons or firms desirous of obtaining a patent, be they inventors or importers of inventions, must file their applications directly at the Government offices. The Secretary of the Treasury and of Commerce will take charge of the application and issue the letters patent.

ART. 2. The application must have the following parts: (1) A description, in duplicate, of the invention or fact on which the invention is

based ; (2) the plans, samples, or drawings, in duplicate, which may be necessary to illustrate the invention ; (3) a memorandum or the objects or papers submitted with the application ; (4) the clear and precise specification of the claim, stating its features and the uses of the invention ; (5) the term, within ten years allowed as maximum by the law, for which the patent is demanded.

ART. 3. As the Government does not guaranty either the novelty or usefulness of the invention, the security required by Article 7, Section 6, of the patent law in force will no longer be obligatory.

ART. 4. The application shall be referred to the Industrial Bureau, where, immediately, and with the date of the application or certificate at filing, will be given to the applicant, if he demands it, an official notice stating the name of the inventor and the nature of the invention, which shall be published at his expense during thirty days. Having complied with this requisite, the application shall be referred to two examiners, duly appointed. Should their opinion be contrary to the claim, notice will be given the applicant, and when he may have submitted his reasons for upholding his claim, a third examiner shall be associated to those already appointed, and their final opinion referred to the Industrial Bureau and to the Attorney-General, after which the Secretary of the Treasury will give his decision.

ART. 5. In the decree granting the patent, the issue of letters patent will be ordered, and the applicant must pay into the Treasury at once the sum of 50 soles for the Government fees, and unless this requisite be complied with, the letters patent will not be issued.

ART. 6. The term of the patent will be reckoned from the date of the letters patent, and these will be extended to all parts of the Republic.

ART. 7. The law of January 28, 1869, is hereby amended in accordance with these present enactments, and the decree of February 26 of the same year is hereby repealed. The models to which it refers will be kept in future in the Industrial Bureau.

ART. 8. The applications pending, at the time of the publication of this law, at the prefect's office or before the provincial corporation, shall be immediately referred, whatever stage or progress they may be in, to the Minister of Finance, who will attend to the further prosecution of the claims according to this law, omitting the publication of the official notice.

The Executive will take all necessary measures for enforcing this law.

TOBACCO DUTIES.

I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the information of the Department of State, a supreme decree issued by President Piérola, January 25, 1896, in regard to the duties on tobacco, etc., entering the territory of Peru.

J. A. MCKENZIE, *Minister.*

LIMA, February 1, 1896.

{Translation.}

TOBACCO DUTY.

ARTICLE 1. The import duties on all classes of tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes entering the territory of the Republic from abroad shall be specific, and, from the time fixed by Article 3, shall be collected at all the custom-houses according to the following tariff:

Tobacco from the bordering countries, whether in the leaf or entire, in the leaf in rolls, or entire in rolls....	per kilogram*..	\$0 25
Mexican and Central and South American tobacco, whether in leaf or entire, in the leaf in rolls, or entire in rolls..	per kilogram*..	50
Tobacco from any other foreign source, whether in the leaf or entire, in the leaf in rolls, or entire in rolls....	per kilogram*..	1 00
Tobacco for chewing, snuff, cut and fibered tobacco, and manufactured tobacco in general, in whatever shape or form, excepting those of cigars and cigarettes, from whatever source imported, including the bordering countries.....	per kilogram..	1 00
Italian cigars.....	do.....	4 00
Cigars from any other source	do.....	7 00

ART. 2. A consumption duty will be collected on every class of tobacco, cigars and cigarettes in accordance with the following scale:

(1) Native tobacco in the leaf entire, in the leaf in rolls, or entire in rolls.....	per kilogram*..	25
(2) Mexican and Central American tobacco.....	per kilogram* .	40
(3) Tobacco from the bordering countries, whether in leaf entire, in the leaf in rolls, or entire in rolls.....	per kilogram*..	35
(4) Foreign tobacco, from whatever source, in the leaf entire, in the leaf in rolls, or entire in rolls	per kilogram*..	60
(5) Foreign tobacco for chewing and snuff... ..	" ..	1 50
(6) Foreign cut and fibered tobacco, made up in packets ready for consumption without any further preparation..	per kilogram*..	1 50

Net weight.

- (7) Foreign cut and fibered tobacco, loose, intended for further elaboration in the country per kilogram*.. 70
- (8) Imported foreign cigars, in boxes or loose, from whatever source per kilogram*.. 2 00
- (9) Cigars made in the country, no matter of what tobacco, in boxes or loose..... per kilogram*.. 1 50
- (10) Foreign cigarettes, from whatever source, made up in packets, bundles, or loose, per packet or bundle not exceeding twenty-four cigarettes each and for every twenty-four cigarettes loose. 06
- (11) Home-made cigarettes of foreign tobacco, from whatever source, except the bordering countries, per packet or bundle not exceeding twenty-four cigarettes..... 05
- (12) Home-made cigarettes of native tobacco simply or mixed with Mexican or Central or South American tobacco, per packet or bundle not containing over twelve cigarettes..... 01½
- Ditto, per packet or bundle containing over twelve, but not exceeding twenty-four cigarettes..... 03
- (13) Cut or fibered native tobacco, put up in packets ready for use without further preparation, for every fifty grams or fraction less than fifty grams 03

ART. 3. As soon as the Government has taken charge of the collecting of these duties, the existing stock of tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes shall pay the increase in the consumption duty arising from the preceding article. Differences resulting in a decrease will not be returned (reimbursed.)

ART. 4. The consumption duty on raw tobacco, as fixed for native tobacco, viz, 25 cents per kilogram, net weight, will be returned intact to exporters of tobacco made up in the country into cigars and cigarettes and on snuff, cut, and fibered tobacco prepared in the country, after proof has been given of the contents of the packages and of their importation into a foreign country. This return will not be made on machine-made articles.

ART. 5. The Government will issue a set of rules and regulations for the better enforcement of this law, granting to producers, importers, manufacturers, merchants, and dealers the greatest possible facilities for the dispatch and transit of the taxed tobaccos, cigars, and cigarettes as are compatible with the security of the revenue, so that the supervision exercised will not obstruct business.

ART. 6. The law of the 4th of November, 1886, and that of the 18th of November, 1892, as also all such other laws as are opposed to the present one, are hereby abolished.

Net weight.

SANTO DOMINGO.

LAW REGULATING FEES AT PORTS OF ENTRY.—

FEBRUARY 15, 1896.

Ulises Heureaux, General of Division in Chief of the National Army, Pacificator of the Country, and Constitutional President of the Republic.

Inasmuch as it is indispensable to regulate the method of collecting the fees which have been up to the present time paid at the custom houses of the Republic for various purposes ; and

Considering, that it is necessary that the collection of these emoluments be adjusted to limits of equity, as well as have the character of a lawful payment, authorized by a competent authority ;

Having heard the Council of the Secretaries of State,

RESOLVES :

1. When necessary, under Art. 175 of the Law of Customs and Ports, to allow one or more vessels to pass along the coast to take cargo, the Customs Interventors, within their respective jurisdictions, and in cases in which they deem it necessary for proper reasons, shall place on board an officer of recognized activity and honesty, to oversee all the operations of said vessels, without collecting any fee whatever from the consignees for this service.

In case the authorities deem it just and proper to give some remuneration to the employee who performs such service, the case will be submitted to the Minister of Hacienda, so that such official may fix the amount that ought to be paid to such employee if such is determined, under the previous approval of the Executive power.

2. If the service be solicited and for account of commercial people, then the employee who may be required to render such service, shall collect the fees established by the present tariff, to wit :

(a) For assistance in the river, if the service is rendered at this Capital, and anywhere in the Republic at points not destined for loading and unloading vessels, for each day, in gold \$ 1 50

(b) For assistance loading or unloading a vessel at private store-houses, which are not in Government offices, for each day, in gold. 1 50

(c) For each hour extra during the day, outside of office hours, according to law, in the loading or unloading of a vessel, in gold.	50
(d) For each copy of a "factura," in case it is asked for by some interested person, in gold	2 00
(e) For each certificate given, when asked for by some person interested, in gold.	2 00
(f) For assistance in loading or unloading of a vessel upon a holiday, previous permission being had from the proper authority, in gold.	50 00
(g) For assistance of the Warden of a Port, on board of vessels taking or discharging cargo, per day, in gold.	1 00
(h) For assistance loading or discharging a vessel, at the Capital, above the Bridge, per day, in gold.	1 50
(i) For certifying the roll of a vessel, in gold.	1 00
(j) For assistance in loading or discharging the vessels that undertake that operation upon navigable rivers, beyond the radius of the Government offices, for each day, in gold.	1 00

In the same situation will be considered those vessels which undertake to load or discharge cargo at places which are separated from the offices of the Government, but within the same Port or bay; that is to say, they will pay, for each day, in gold. 1 00

3. The Governors of the Provinces and Districts will collect for their own use the sum of \$25 in gold when there is a necessity for justifiable reasons to permit labor to be carried on upon holidays in the open Ports of the Republic.

4. In no other case than those provided for in the present resolution shall any duty or fee whatever be collected by the authorities, nor by inferior employes; those infringing this provision being subject to the penalty of immediate dismissal, provided it is deemed proper.

Done in the National Palace at Santo Domingo, Capital of the Republic, on the 15th of February, 1896: 52d of the Independence and 33rd of the Restoration.

U. HEUREAUX.

Countersigned:

The Minister of Hacienda and Commerce,

RIVAS.

URUGUAY.

POINTS FROM THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

President Uriburi delivered his Annual Message on the occasion of the opening of the ordinary sittings of the Chambers on the 15th of February. From the message the following extracts are made :

The favorable economic reaction commenced in 1894 has continued during 1895, though naturally not to the same high degree. Still, we are advancing rapidly ; consumption, industry, commerce, land and water transport, and the revenue from duties and internal taxes, all have increased, as shown by the corresponding statistics. The metallic balance in favor of the country was \$3,747,815 in 1894 and \$5,258,727 in 1895, a total of \$9,056,502 in the two years. The surplus of the portion of the Customs Revenue assigned to the service of the Consolidated Debt and Railway Guarantees, left a fund available for amortisation of \$573,400 in 1894, which extinguished bonds for over a million dollars (nominal), and of \$761,400 in 1894, which permitted the amortisation this year of \$1,600,000, or in two years, over \$2,600,000 deducted from the total amount of the public debt. These facts show indisputably the increase of national activity and the vigor of the productive force of our population. * * * * *

Statistics show a great advance in public instruction, both as regards the number of schools open, and of pupils. The figures for 1895 are as follows : public schools, 521 ; private schools, 348 ; total 869. Pupils in same, 48,050 and 21,110 respectively, or total, 69,160. School buildings of State property, 120. The special committees appointed for the purpose in December, 1894, have nearly finished the revision of the Scholastic Code and Programme. * * * * *

The relations with all foreign powers are friendly and regular, and the rights of the Republic have been well sustained in all questions.

FOREIGN COMMERCE IN 1895.

The following statement, issued by the Statistical Department of the Government, shows the exports and imports for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1895, also a comparison with the year 1894:

IMPORTATION.

	1894.	1895.	
Beverages in general.....	\$2,966,833	\$3,259,065	\$292,232 Increase.
Comestibles, cereals and spices.	3,888,916	4,140,021	251,105 "
Tobacco and cigars	254,645	218,628	36,017 Decrease.
Soft goods and materials.....	5,014,992	4,856,105	158,887 "
Ready-made clothing ..	1,527,064	1,386,873	146,191 "
Raw material and machinery...	6,209,326	6,441,047	231,721 Increase.
Miscellaneous.....	3,009,088	3,234,693	225,605 "
Live Stock	929,501	1,065,757	136,256 "

EXPORTATION.

	1894.	1895.	
Live stock	\$ 871,399	\$ 1,004,479	\$133,080 Increase.
Slaughter-house products....	28,196,806	27,474,986	721,820 Decrease.
Agricultural products	3,950,217	3,735,760	214,457 "
Other products.....	337,545	237,762	89,783 "
Naval stores.....	123,542	90,654	22,888 "

The Montevideo *Times*, commenting on these figures, says:

Roughly speaking, this result is not altogether unsatisfactory, and, indeed, rather better than we had expected to see, remembering the commercial depression that made itself felt during the year. * * * The falling off is in the exports, and amounts to less than 3 per cent., which is not very formidable, and may easily be attributed to variation of the season or other accidental causes. It must be remembered that in 1894 a special high-water mark of exportation was reached, and therefore the slight decrease in the following year (1895) does not necessarily indicate the relaxation of the productive powers of the republic. As it is, the two years show the highest record of exportation that the republic has yet reached.

The increase in the importation, though only some $3\frac{1}{4}$ per cent., is more than we had expected to see, considering the frequent complaints of commercial stagnation or depression throughout the year.

VENEZUELA.

[From advance sheets of United States Consular Reports for April, 1896.]

TRADE CONDITIONS.

I have the honor to report upon the commercial conditions of this consular district during the past year, and beg to refer to the movement in the chief articles of exportation.

COFFEE.

A gratifying increase in the exportation of this staple may be noted, the invoice value of the quantity shipped to the United States during 1895 being \$7,806,195.33 (United States gold), as against \$5,619,008.78 in 1894.

The removal of the retaliatory duties imposed by our Government upon Venezuelan products, on account of the non-acceptance by this Republic of our reciprocity propositions, had an immediate effect in restoring our trade, approximately at least, to its former dimensions. In the year 1893, there was shipped to the United States from this port only about \$4,500,000 worth of coffee, and of this reduced quantity less than one-half was entered for consumption at New York, the remainder going to Europe or Canada. The past year, however, makes an excellent showing, greater, indeed, than the average of the most favorable former periods.

CACAO.

A slight increase is noticed in the exportation of cacao, but its cultivation is by no means what it should be. The invoice value of the quantity shipped to the United States during the past twelve months was \$5,500.66. With the settlement of the district of Perija and the opening to traffic of the railway under construction, it is to be hoped that this most profitable product may receive the attention which it merits.

COPAIBA.

A great falling off is noted in the shipments of balsam of copaiba, although it is abundant in the forests of this section. The invoice value of the quantity exported during 1895 was only \$1,835.49, as compared with \$4,087.34 in the year previous.

FISH SOUNDS.

The Curbina fisheries have not done as well as usual, the sounds exported representing a value of \$7,405.74, as against \$9,848.89 in 1894.

HIDES AND SKINS.

The exports of hides have largely increased, while those of skins have suffered a perceptible diminution. Of the former, there were shipped in 1895, a value of \$28,212.93, and in 1894, \$18,314.28; of the latter, \$18,209.06 and \$22,245.54 for 1895 and 1894, respectively.

WOODS AND DIVI-DIVI.

The greater part of these exports go direct to Europe in sailing vessels, which arrive with merchandise from continental ports, but the United States receives more or less yearly. During 1895, there was shipped to New York a value of \$5,065.67 of boxwood and \$4,220.14 of divi-divi, differing but little from the receipts during 1894.

BUSINESS DEPRESSION.

It may be observed that all minor industries have suffered during the past year from the scarcity of money and the disinclination of capitalists to engage in enterprises. The entire Republic has been affected by contraction of trade and lack of employment for the masses, but this section has no doubt suffered less than any other.

FEELING TOWARD THE UNITED STATES.

The position of the United States to-day with respect to Venezuela should have a most important effect upon our future trade relations with this country, and, indeed, with the greater part of South America. Should the boundary question be peacefully adjusted in such a manner that the Venezuelans feel that they have received due justice, appreciating at the same time that the intervention of our Government secured them a fair hearing, then our efforts to extend our commercial influence in the Republic would meet with a ready and enthusiastic response from the Venezuelan people, and our merchants and exporters should be quick to take advantage of the situation and strain every nerve to capture what might have been theirs years ago had they equaled their European rivals in energy and in their unceasing efforts to discover the best methods of satisfying the desires and even the caprices of the people.

UNDEVELOPED GOLD MINES.

It must not be forgotten, moreover, that trade is not the only thing to be considered in our relations with this country. The rich gold fields of

the territory in dispute with British Guiana are yet practically untouched, in spite of the many mining enterprises that have been attempted in that section. It should be remembered that the first mine properly worked in the territory was opened by an American company, incorporated in Philadelphia under the title of the Orinoco Mining Company. This American organization shortly afterwards sunk another mine a few miles from the Orinoco, incorporated separately with the designation of the South American Mining Company. These were the first enterprises of the kind duly fitted out with stamp mills and other accessories, so the Americans were really the pioneers in practical gold mining in that region. It is true that desultory washings and placer mining had previously been carried on along the Cicapra River, but these were not organized enterprises, and no attempt at quartz crushing and scientific mining was made until the advent of the Orinoco company. This and the South American gave excellent returns from the first, but both finally became the property of an English company. These two mines were afterwards worked under other names, but, I believe, are now idle. With favorable concessions and good faith on the part of the Venezuelan Government, which there would be no reason to doubt, gold mining in this region should be immensely profitable, and especially favorable concessions might be obtained by Americans, who would, most likely, have the preference over other nationalities when the boundary question is definitely settled.

FRIENDLY EXPRESSIONS BY VENEZUELAN'S.

Referring again to the existing feeling in Venezuela respecting the attitude of the United States, I beg to mention that in this consular district the popular expressions of gratitude and fraternal feeling have been many and enthusiastic. On two occasions the people of this city formed in procession, with the interlaced colors of the United States and Venezuela, and after parading the streets, halted in front of the consulate, where addresses were made highly eulogistic of our country and its Government and expressing eternal gratitude. As I have already had the honor to report, I replied briefly, thanking the citizens for their friendly manifestation. I have also received communications from the superior and supreme courts of this State, as well as from various societies, benevolent and other, all more or less of the same tenor and effusive in their expressions of gratitude and appreciation. In Coro and in the State of Los Andes a similar feeling universally prevails.

Should this popular sentiment continue, and the final adjustment of the pending question be satisfactory to Venezuela, I may reaffirm my previous statement that judicious and energetic methods on the part of our merchants and manufacturers are all that is necessary to enable us to far outstrip our European competitors in the race for commercial

supremacy. I have in many previous reports dwelt repeatedly upon the necessity of making a careful study of the peculiar requirements of these markets, without which there can be no success.

E. H. PLUMACHER, *Consul.*

MARACAIBO, February 6, 1896.

SHIPPING AND HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS AT MARACAIBO.

I inclose the list of arrivals of vessels at this port during the past calendar year. The only notable difference from the returns for 1894 appears in the arrivals of American steamers, these having increased from forty-two to sixty. This has been owing, in great part, to the increased service of the Red D Line and also to the extraordinary trips necessary by the accumulation of coffee at this port. No coffee whatever now leaves this port except in the steamers of the American line. Even that intended for direct shipment to Europe goes as far as Curaçao in these vessels. All cargo from the United States and that from Europe via Curaçao also arrives at Maracaibo in the Red D steamers, and it is thus gratifying to note that both the export and import trade of a very extensive section both of Venezuela and Columbia is chiefly carried on under our flag.

I have been pleased, in my yearly reports, to be able to make favorable mention of this excellent line, which has been a principal factor in extending our commercial interests on this coast, and the regularity of its service and the acceptability of its methods merit renewed commendation.

Four American sailing vessels (all schooners) arrived during the past twelve months, but it is not to be expected that many sailing vessels will arrive at Maracaibo from the United States unless there should be an extraordinary demand for wood or divi-divi. At some future day, when the timber resources of this section are generally known, there will, perhaps, be a large number of sailing craft chartered at home to load in Lake Maracaibo the various valuable woods which, as yet, are practically unknown in the markets of the world. At present, the steamers fill all the requirements of trade.

The project of improving the bars which obstruct the entrance to this great inland sea, to which I have referred in previous reports, is still under consideration, and the present government of this State, which has yet two years to serve, is very desirous of, at least, initiating this most important work.

Nothing could be more conducive to the rapid progress of Maracaibo and of the section of which it is the metropolis than a safe channel to the city's wharves for vessels of heavy draft. The limit is now 10½ feet, and

while this drawback exists, Maracaibo can not hope to obtain the predominance to which it is entitled by its commercial importance and exceptionally favorable position.

The harbor of Maracaibo has been in process of improvement for more than two years past, and the works, when completed, will give much greater facilities to shipping.

A sea wall of concrete has taken the place of the old beach, and an additional mole has been extended into the lake, with the object of permitting vessels to load and discharge directly thereon, thus doing away with the necessity of lighterage. The contractors are also obliged to erect handsome and substantial buildings for the custom-house and its accessories, and these, when completed, will form a notable addition to the public edifices of the city. Work, however, is progressing very slowly, and, most probably, another two years will elapse before the completion of operations.

The interior navigation of the lake and its tributary rivers is active and flourishing, increasing in importance every year. Scarcely a day passes that steamers engaged in this trade do not arrive or depart, besides which there is a multitude of sailing craft constantly employed.

Arrivals of Vessels at Maracaibo During the Year Ending December 31, 1895.

FLAG.	Steamers.	Barks.	Brigs.	Schooners.	Total.
American	60	..	..	4	64
British	2	4	..	6
French	2	3	..	5
German	1	5	..	6
Danish	3	2	..	5
Norwegian	4	..	..	4
Swedish	1	..	..	1
Dutch	6	6
Italian	3	..	3
Venezuelan	62	62
Total	60	13	17	72	162

E. H. PLUMACHER, *Consul.*

MARACAIBO, February 7, 1896.

VENEZUELA.

THE MINING LAW.

*(Promulgated June 30, 1891.)*TITLE I.—*Mines.*

SECTION 1. The name of *mine* is given to every accumulation of inorganic metalliferous substances, or of combustible matter, deposited on the surface or in the interior of the earth, or of precious stones admitting of regular mining work.

Pearls, corals, sponges, whether found in placers or on the seashore, are not considered under the head of mines. Especial rules shall be enacted in each locality, by either the federal or the State executive, as the case may be, for the utilization of these productions.

SEC. 2. Precious metals as well as precious stones not admitting of regular mining work, when found on the surface of lands which do not belong to private parties, are the property of the first occupant.

SEC. 3. Building stones, sand, mineral substances of siliceous or calcareous character, slates, clay, lime, puzzolane, turf, marl, and all other material of this kind, which does not come scientifically under the head of mines, are the property of the owner of the land in which they are found.

SEC. 4. Auriferous sands, sands carrying tin, and all other mineral productions of rivers and placers, as well as the gold called *de greda*, found in vacant lands, or in lands belonging to

the nation and not adjudicated by the executive to any individual party or corporation by means of a concession, shall be property of free public use.

But if the working of the mineral productions referred to in this section is made under a Government concession and in establishments of permanent character, then the said working shall be subject to such especial rules as the national executive may have made and embodied in the text of the concession or patent. Patents of this kind must set forth particularly the exact limits of each *pertenencia* or portion of mining property granted, whether the said *pertenencia* is in the bed of a river or in a placer, and also which are, under the present law, the duties of the parties to whom the concession is made, as well as the rights of the Government. They shall also contain an adjudication of such areas of firm ground as must be added to each concession for erecting machinery and other purposes.

SEC. 5. The ownership of the mines belongs to the State in which they are found; their control corresponds to the federation, and the right of working or utilizing them is vested, subject to the provisions of this law, in the parties who have obtained, or may obtain in the future, from the national executive a concession to that effect.

TITLE II.—*Ownership of the Mines.*

SEC. 6. No mine can be worked, even by the owner of the soil, without a concession previously granted by the federal executive.

SEC. 7. The working of the mines shall be made in permanent establishments, situated within the limits of the concessions granted by the national executive. No concession shall embrace less ground than one hectare, nor more than 200, nor shall it be made for more than 99 years nor less than 50. When the concession refers to coal mines, the number of hectares to be embraced in it may be three times as large as in any other cases.

SEC. 8. Distinction shall be made in all cases between the soil and subsoil. The soil begins at the surface and extends downwards vertically for 15 meters. The subsoil begins where those 15 meters end and continues to an indefinite depth.

SEC. 9. The grant of a mine makes it a piece of real property different from the other real property represented by the soil or surface. It can therefore be acquired, conveyed, mortgaged, or incumbered, wholly and as an entirety, in the same manner and according to the same rules as all other real estate, under the civil code. But it cannot be acquired, conveyed, mortgaged, or incumbered partially, or by lots, without previous permission from the federal executive.

Engines, appliances, and whatever else the grantee may have set up at the mine for its proper working, shall be also considered as real estate as long as they are in actual use.

SEC. 10. No concession shall be divided, nor any concession or part thereof, be annexed to another concession without permission of the national executive.

SEC. 11. The rights of the grantee expire at the very moment and at the very place in which the limits of his concession are reached. If, however, the said grantee, while engaged in underground work in his own vein or deposit, should happen to touch some ground not granted to him, or a mine which has been abandoned, then he shall be entitled to the grant of an additional *pertenencia*, which shall be annexed to his concession.

But if in the course of the said mining operations it should happen that the grantee, whether a private individual or a corporation, should touch property belonging to other parties, under a government concession, all works shall be stopped at the very moment in which the fact is noticed, or the owner of the invaded property calls attention to it. In case of good faith, whatever ores have been extracted in this way from the neighboring mine shall be divided by halves between the two owners. But if the trespass was committed maliciously, all right to this

half of the value of the ores shall be lost by the trespasser, who shall be bound besides to pay to the owner of the invaded propert double the value of all that was taken. The burden of the proof of bad faith shall fall upon the complainant.

SEC. 12. Concessions of mines or of mining properties shall be made for 99 years ; but when the private individual or company in whose favor the grant was made has been unable to exhaust within that period the vein or veins in his or its possession, an extension of time shall be granted, which may embrace even a second period of 99 years. But the extension shall not be granted without competent proof, by means of a scientific survey of the mining works, that the mine has not been exhausted, and that the continuation of the work is necessary.

SEC. 13. Whenever such small free or unadjudicated spaces as are called *alfaretas* should happen to be found between two or more *pertencencias*, or mining properties, they shall be granted to the owner of the neighboring mine who first applies for them, or upon the waiving of this right to any other applicant.

SEC. 14. The patent or title of the grant or concession of a mine or mining property shall be issued by the President of the Republic, shall be countersigned by the Secretary of Fomento, and shall read as follows :

“The President of the Republic: Whereas it appears that (here the name of the individual or company in whose favor the concession is made) applied to the Government for the adjudication of a mining property of such a kind, of the extent of ———, in the district of ———, State of ——— (or Territory of ———), the boundaries of which, according to the plan on file, are as following : ———. And whereas it appears that all the requisites provided for and established by the mining code which is now in force have been duly complied with : ——— does hereby grant, after having heard the opinion of the federal council, to the said ——— and his (or its) successors, heirs or assigns, the concession of the mining property, of the extent of

_____, situated in the district of _____, of the State (or Territory) of _____, to which the present case, No. —, refers.”

A patent of this kind, after it is registered in the register's office of the locality in which the mine is found, shall give full right to the grantee and his heirs, assigns or successors, for the period of ninety-nine years, to the use and enjoyment of the mining property to which it refers; provided, however, that the grantee fulfills all the requisites established by the present law.

SEC. 15. The patent or title of a mining property shall not convey in any way whatever the ownership of the soil.

But it renders obligatory upon the party in whose favor it has been issued to acquire, before commencing to work the mines, the ownership of said soil. If the latter belongs to the nation or to the State, the grantee shall have it, with preference to all other applicants, under the general provisions of law. But if it belongs to private parties the acquisition shall be made through negotiation with the owners, in conformity with the provisions and rules of the present code.

It shall be optional for the owner either to sell the soil to the miner or to associate with him in the mining enterprise, his interest to be represented in that case by the value of his property. In both cases this value shall be appraised in the manner provided by law.

SEC. 16. No concession of a mining property shall lap wholly or in part, over another concession if both refer to the same class of mineral productions.

This prohibition, however, does not apply to old concessions embracing more than 200 hectares, except in so much as the 200 hectares which form now the maximum unit of concession are concerned. All other hectares shall be considered a proper subject for concessions under the present law.

SEC. 17. The tailings, refuse heaps, and rewashings of abandoned mines are integral parts of the mines to which they

belong; but as long as the said mines remain abandoned the tailings, refuse heaps, and rewashings to which this section refers shall be of common use.

The refuse heaps and rewashings of old smelting establishments abandoned by their owners shall also be of common use as long as they remain in uninclosed or unfenced grounds.

SEC. 18. The patents or titles of the concessions shall be recorded at the office of the register of the locality where the mine or mining property is situated, and also at the department of Fomento, where a special registry for that purpose shall be kept.

TITLE III.—*Explorations.*

SEC. 19. Works of excavations in search of mines may be freely made in vacant lands belonging to the nation.

SEC. 20. The permission of the owner shall be necessary for making such searches in his own land. If the mine is found the fourth part thereof shall be adjudicated to him. If the owner refuses his permission, or is absent and has not, within that territorial jurisdiction, any duly constituted representative, application for the permission shall be made either to the president of the State, or to the governor of the Territory, as the case may be, who, in no case shall refuse it.

The applicant shall set forth in his petition, besides his own name and domicile, and the name and domicile of the owner of the land to be explored, the exact location of the same land and the nature of the mine which he expects to find there. He must also promise to comply in every respect with the provisions of the present section, in case a mine is actually found, and to pay indemnification for all damages arising out of the search, for which purpose he shall give bonds before commencing work.

If no agreement can be reached as to the amount of the bond between the applicant and the owner of the land, the matter

shall be settled by the court of first instance, after hearing the report of experts.

SEC. 21. No person who has once obtained permission to make the search in a piece of private land shall ask for it again in reference to the same piece of land, unless the said person renews the former engagement and give a new bond to secure the payment of damages.

SEC. 22. No search or exploration can be made within the limits of a concession, unless it is with the permission of the party in whose favor it was granted, if the search has for its object the discovery of mines of the same class.

This prohibition, however, shall be limited, in the case of old concessions of more than 200 hectares, to the 200 hectares surrounding the mine to which the concession refers. The other hectares shall continue to be subject to the general provisions of law respecting private lands.

SEC. 23. No excavation, or mining labor, shall be made at less distance than 50 meters from any building, railroad, fenced ground, wagon road, canal, bridge, spring or drinking place for the cattle, or any other place of public or private use, or than 1,400 meters, at least, from a fortification, without the permission of the respective authority, or of the owner, and in all cases in full accordance with the law in force for the condemnation of private property.

TITLE IV.—*Barrancos.*

SEC. 24. A *barranco* is a solid 10 meters long by 10 wide, and of indefinite depth.

SEC. 25. In the exploration of mines by the system of *barranco* and *socavones* (narrow subterraneous passages driven from the skirt of a hill and communicating with the pit) made to benefit the alluvia or *greda* gold, no work shall be undertaken in the direction of a vein already discovered, whether industrially worked or not, or within a distance of 100 meters on either

side, or in other words, the owner of the vein shall have always the right to retain under his ownership and control a zone 200 meters wide, through the center of which his vein shall cross.

SEC. 26. The mining work to which the foregoing article alludes, has especial reference to the washing of the clay in tubs, or otherwise by some other more advanced or improved process; and as in the course of these operations loose stones, and fragments of metallic ore, or other precious material, which can be utilized by means of the stamp mill, or by hand, are frequently found, it is hereby declared that the owner of the *barranco* is entitled to all that is found in this way; but the defined veins can not be acquired, except in the manner and under the proceedings provided for in the present code.

SEC. 27. In all kinds of mining searches and explorations, whether in vacant grounds belonging to the nation, or to some town, or in private property, or in mining properties already constituted, the parties undertaking the search shall be bound to properly fill up, before abandoning them, the excavations they made: and the proper authority of the locality may compel them to do so, and by fine and even imprisonment, if necessary.

TITLE V.—*Persons in whose favor mine concessions can be made.*

SEC. 28. Every person capable of owning real estate in Venezuela can acquire by all the legal means the ownership of a mine, except in the cases set forth in the following section.

Joint stock companies and all other kinds of companies and partnerships, whether national or foreign, with residence either in Venezuela or abroad, can also make this acquisition.

SEC. 29. The following persons are forbidden to acquire mining property or have any interest in mines, or any share in their profits:

The mining engineers in the employ of the Government, in mining matters, if the mine is found in the district, or mining circumscription in which they exercise their functions.

The president of the State, or the governor of the territory, and the intendente, or head of the financial department, if the mine is found in a locality under their jurisdiction.

The judges having jurisdiction in mining matters.

These prohibitions, however, do not affect the acquisitions made previous to the date in which the said functionaries received their respective appointments, nor those made by inheritance, during their terms of office. Nor shall they apply either to acquisitions made by women before their marriage, or made after it in consideration of some sum of money.

SEC. 30. No person shall acquire, as discoverer or denouncer, except in such cases as shall be expressly marked down in this law, more than one concession or mining property within any of the mining districts recognized by the present code, if the said person is not already engaged in actual work in the former concession. But in all other capacities every competent person shall acquire as many mines as desired, without restriction of any kind.

SEC. 31. Companies organized for the purpose of working mines are civil companies subject to civil jurisdiction.

SEC. 32. Joint stock companies or other companies, whether national or foreign, with residence in Venezuela, organized for the purpose of working mines, shall be organized according to the provisions of the code of commerce, without losing therefor their civil character.

Joint stock companies whose domicile is established outside Venezuela, organized for the purpose of working mines, shall be bound to fulfill, before commencing work, all the requisites provided in section 224 of the code of commerce, and to constitute a lawful agent or attorney, who shall represent them and directly respond all the obligations contracted in the country. The power of attorney given to this agent shall be recorded in a registry kept for this purpose at the tribunal of commerce of the locality, and it shall be published, furthermore, in the official

paper, or in any other paper if there is no official one, of the territory under the jurisdiction of that tribunal. If the said companies should fail to comply with this provision, the agencies or establishments started by them in the Republic shall be considered, for all legal purposes, as independent individualities.

SEC. 33. The property, of whatever class, owned and possessed in the Republic by foreign companies, shall directly respond for all the transactions and operations made in Venezuela by their respective agents in the exercise of their functions.

SEC. 34. Persons who shall have furnished money, either for the works of exploration, or for the actual working of the mine, or to buy machinery, or erect buildings, shall have a mortgage on the concession. But this mortgage shall not be efficient if it is not recorded in the register's office of the locality, with expression of the amounts supplied, and of the object or purpose for which they were supplied.

TITLE VI.—*Discoveries of Mines.*

SEC. 35. All persons or companies who should have discovered a vein or mineral deposit of whatever kind shall be entitled to obtain a concession, which, according to section 7 of this law, cannot exceed 200 hectares.

Mines called *de aluvión* and *oro corrido*, which in order to be worked by hydraulic method, require a larger area, are excluded from the operation of this provision.

The circumstance that the finding of the mining material has been made in deposits formerly worked under concessions which afterwards were canceled by the Secretary of Fomento, does not deprive the finding of the character of a discovery.

When two or more persons claim at the same time to be discoverers of a vein or deposit, of whatever class, the concession shall be made in favor of the one who shall prove to have been first in finding the mineral, even if the others show to have been

first in making the search. In case of doubt, the first one in making the denouncement shall be adjudged to be the discoverer.

SEC. 36. Whosoever shall find a vein or metallic deposit must report the fact to the president of the state or the governor of the territory, as the case may be, within whose limits the finding took place. This report shall set forth the names of the discoverer, and of his partner or partners, if he has any, the name which he wishes to give to the mine, the number of hectares which he wishes to be given to him in the concession, and a specific and accurate designation of the place where he found the mineral, indicating the mouth, excavation, pit, etc.

The president of the state or the governor of the territory, as the case may be, before whom the denouncement was filed, shall make a record of the day and hour in which it was filed, and shall also cause the said denouncement to be entered in full on a registry which shall be kept for such purposes by his secretary. Each entry shall be signed by the said secretary and also by the denouncer, who shall be furnished with a receipt acknowledging the filing of the denouncement and all other circumstances herein provided for.

The said president or governor shall in no case refuse to give the interested parties the receipts just mentioned, unless they have not complied with all the requisites provided for in this section; nor shall he either fail to take such a course of action in regard to denouncement as is established by the present law.

SEC. 37. The president or governor before whom the denouncement was filed shall cause it to be published in the official *gaceta*, and, if there be none, in the newspaper which has the largest circulation in the locality, this publication to be made ten times in the space of thirty days, to be counted from the date in which the denouncement was filed. If the concession applied for should be situated in lands belonging to private persons, notice of the denouncement shall be served also upon the owner or possessor of the lands.

SEC. 38. All objections to the granting of the concession shall be made within twenty days subsequent to the expiration of the time set forth in the foregoing section. They shall be heard and considered by either the president of the state, or the governor of the territory, but an appeal can be taken from the decision given by either of them to the Secretary of Fomento, who has the power to affirm it or repeal it. But the mere fact of taking this appeal shall not prevent the decision from being carried into effect.

SEC. 39. Preference shall be given, in cases of opposition, to the following :

1. To the discoverer.
2. To the owner of the surface.
3. To the applicant who shows to have sufficient capital to carry on the work.

SEC. 40. At the expiration of the fifty days, to which sections 37 and 38 refer, the president of the state, or governor of the territory, as the case may be, shall, if no opposition has been made, or if it has been disposed of adversely, grant to the applicant the authorization necessary to make surveys, draw plans, etc.

SEC. 41. The discoverer shall be bound to make, within the period of six months subsequent to the date of the above said authorization, such works as are necessary to show plainly the nature of the mine, its wealth, its thickness, its inclination, and its direction.

SEC. 42. After the works referred to in the foregoing section have been finished, the discoverer shall determine upon the limits which are to be marked in the concession, and the extent thereof, either on only one side of the pit, or excavation, or all around it.

SEC. 43. Within the six months referred to in article 41, the discoverer shall file before the President of the State, or the governor of the territory, as the case may be, a map of the concession and a plan of the mine or deposit of mineral therein referred

to, and the said map and plan shall clearly set forth the location, boundaries, extent and nature of the ground as well as the situation, direction, nature and approximate yield of the vein, or deposit. The engineer, or surveyor, as the case may be, shall certify in writing upon this map the existence of the mineral deposit referred to, and mark precisely the place where it is found.

All maps of concessions shall be made in the scale of $\frac{1}{2500}$; and in all plans of mines, the veins, strata, deposits, etc., shall be represented by using the horizontal scale of $\frac{1}{2000}$ and the vertical one of $\frac{1}{250}$.

Upon the receipt of the map and plan the president, or governor, shall order the inspector of mines, or if there is none, two mining engineers, or experts, whom he shall appoint for that purpose, to visit the locality, ascertain the correctness of the map and plan and submit a report embracing the following points, namely:

1. A description of the work done for the purpose of showing the existence of the deposit, and whether this deposit is in the shape of a vein, or a conglomeration of quartz, or in any other form, and which are its characteristic circumstances.

2. The nature or class of the mineral said to have been discovered.

3. The result of the assay which the commissioners must make with the samples they must take in the alleged mines.

SEC. 44. The engineer inspector of mines shall revise the map of the ground, according to the following proceedings, namely:

1. He shall summon the adjoining proprietors, as shown by the map, to be present at the operation of revision on the day and hour, which shall be stated. In no case shall less than fifteen days be allowed to elapse between the date in which the summons is issued and the day of the operation. The writs of summons shall express besides the day and hour set apart for

the revision, the number of hectares embraced in the application, and the name of the applicant. Publication of the same shall be made, also for fifteen days, by the newspapers and by bills posted at the door of the inspector of mines.

2. The returns of these writs, signed by the persons upon whom they were served, shall be filed with the other papers in the case.

If the adjoining owners are absent the writs shall be served upon their representatives, if they have any, and if none can be found, a record shall be made of this fact, and the proceedings shall go on, the right of the absent parties being reserved.

Those parties who have been summoned, but fail to make their appearance at the appointed day, or refuse to sign their names to the returns, this refusal being proved by competent witnesses, shall have to abide by the results of the revision, to which for all the purposes of law they shall be considered as having attended personally.

3. On the appointed day and hour, and whether the parties summoned are or are not present, the engineer inspector shall proceed, upon examination of the map, and the actual survey of the ground, to see whether the *picas* have the required width, whether the angles are properly marked, whether any *alfareta* has been left, which in all cases must be avoided if possible, whether any trespass has been committed on premises lawfully occupied by their legitimate owners or by tenants, having a better right, and finally whether there is, or is not, any other objection whatsoever preventing him from giving his approval to the operation.

SEC. 45. Upon the filing of the report by the engineer inspector of mines, or mining experts, as the case may be, the President of the State, or the governor of the territory, shall, if the report is favorable to the applicant, refer the matter to the Secretary of Fomento; but if it is adverse the matter shall be examined again by experts, at the expense of the applicant, said

experts to be appointed, one by the president or governor, another by the applicant and another by the judge of first instance in civil matters.

The President, or governor, shall give his decision upon the report of these experts. But the applicant may in all cases file new testimony before the Secretary of Fomento, who, in his turn, may, if so found just, order a new examination by experts, also at the expense of the applicant. The experts in this case shall be appointed, one by the Secretary of Fomento, another by the applicant and another by the judge of first instance of the federal district.

The result of this examination by experts shall be deemed to be final.

SEC. 46. As soon as the record of the case reaches the department of Fomento, the secretary shall cause an advertisement to be published ten times within thirty days in the *Gaceta Oficial*, informing the public of the application made, the name and domicile of the applicant, and the location of the mine whose concession is asked for.

SEC. 47. If no opposition is made, or if it be overruled, the final title, or patent, in the form established by Section 14 of this code, shall be issued in favor of the applicant.

SEC. 48. If the applicant should fail to file, within six months spoken of in Section 43, the plans and maps of the concession, the application shall be considered as void or withdrawn, and the mine shall be again subject to denouncement. A proper publication to this effect shall be made through the official newspaper: but the applicant himself may then appear as denouncer, and, all circumstances being equal, he shall be preferred to all others.

SEC. 49. All the papers of a mining case, from the petition to the last decree granting the concession, shall be made in triplicate. One copy shall remain in the department of Fomento.

another shall be kept in the register's office, in which the concession must be recorded, and the third copy, together with the original patent, shall be given to the applicant.

SEC. 50. Only such plans as are drawn by professional engineers or surveyors shall be admitted as authentic and capable of having any official bearing in matters of mines and mining surveys.

SEC. 51. The engineers and surveyors shall respond for all damages arising out of any incorrect statement made by them or any other failure in the proper fulfillment of their professional duties. If it should happen that any of them certify falsely as to the existence of a mineral deposit, the President or governor shall deliver them to the courts of justice for the proper punishment.

TITLE VII.

SEC. 52. The parties in whose favor the concession is made shall be bound to mark on the ground, within six months subsequent to the date of the patent, the limits of their concessions.

These limits shall be marked by means of *picas*, two meters wide at least; but in the corners or angles there shall be also a monument, either of stone or hardwood, with the initials of the owner and the number which marks the concession.

SEC. 53. As soon as the said *picas* have been made, notice thereof shall be given to the engineer inspector of mines, in order that he may see and report to the President of the state or governor of the territory whether the provisions of the law have been duly complied with.

SEC. 54. The *picas* referred to in the foregoing sections shall be cleaned once a year, and the monuments of the corners or angles shall be replaced whenever fallen or destroyed.

SEC. 55. The failure on the part of the grantees to comply with any of the provisions of the foregoing sections shall be

punished with a fine of five hundred bolivars, which shall be paid in the revenue collector's office of the respective place as soon as the engineer inspector of mines informs the said office that the law was violated. Notice of the fact shall be given also to the Federal Executive.

SEC. 56. Parties in whose favor a concession is made shall be bound to actually work the mine within five years subsequent to the date of the patent. The failure to do so shall be punished by a fine of 2,000 bolivars, the collection of which shall be accompanied with a notice that the concession shall be canceled if no actual work is done in the mine within a second period of five years subsequent to the expiration of the former one. No mine shall be considered to be under actual work unless the machinery and other appliances are such as to secure the execution of regular and systematic work.

SEC. 57. As soon as the mine begins to be worked, the grantee shall give information thereof to the President of the State, the governor of the territory, the secretary of Fomento, and the engineer inspector of mines. The latter shall report to the President or governor and to the secretary of Fomento about the machinery and all the elements of work which exist in the mine, their sufficiency, the prospect of stability of the work, and everything else conducive to form an exact idea of the work done.

SEC. 58. When, under the provisions of Section 56, the concession of a mine ought to be canceled, the secretary of Fomento shall make a declaration to that effect. A record of this declaration shall be made, by means of a marginal note, on the same book in which the patent of concession was recorded. Notice of the same shall be also given to the register's office. It shall be published, moreover, in the *Gaceta Oficial*.

SEC. 59. The secretary of Fomento shall have the power to grant to any private party or company proving to possess

sufficient capital to do the proper work, such new concessions as under the provisions of the preceding article can be made.

SEC. 60. The grantee shall be bound to work the mine in a permanent way, unless prevented from doing so by fortuitous accident. Permanent work shall be proved by the testimony of two mining engineers, one appointed by the local authority and the other by the grantee himself. In case of disagreement between both engineers, an umpire will be chosen by them. The engineer inspector of mines shall attend the examination. If the work has been stopped through superior force or any other cause independent of the good condition of the mine, the grantee shall prove this fact by testimony secured before the regular courts of justice of the Republic.

Parties in whose favor a concession is made and who suspend work at the mine for two consecutive years shall incur the fine of 10,000 bolivars.

In enforcing the payment of this fine, the inspector of mines shall serve notice that the concession shall be canceled if within two additional years the work is not resumed.

Notice of all shall be given to the secretary of Fomento.

SEC. 61. If the two years are passed and the work is not resumed, the Federal Executive, through the secretary of Fomento, shall cancel the concession and order the mines and the machinery and appliances thereof to be sold at auction, after due appraisement of all is made.

SEC. 62. This appraisement shall be made judicially, before the court of first instance in civil matters in the district wherein the mine is situated, and the sale shall be advertised by the newspapers and by bills posted at the proper places. Said sale shall take place thirty days after publication.

The auctioneer shall explain the situation of the mine, its nature, the machinery and implements and appliances existing in it, and the valuation made by the appraisers.

SEC. 63. No bid shall be admitted for an amount below the half of the estimated value.

SEC. 64. Upon the completion of the sale, the court shall give information of the fact to the secretary of Fomento, in order that he may issue the proper patent in favor of the purchaser. The proceeds of the sale, without any other deduction than the expenses incurred, shall be delivered by the court to the former owner.

SEC. 65. The purchaser is bound to work the mine within two years subsequent to the date of the purchase; otherwise, his title shall be also canceled.

SEC. 66. If no bidder presents himself on the day set apart for the sale, said sale shall be postponed thirty days longer. And if no bidder appears this second time, a third postponement, also of thirty days, shall be made.

SEC. 67. In this third sale at auction all bids, of whatever amount, shall be admitted, and the mine, with all its machinery and appurtenances, shall be adjudicated to the highest bidder.

If no bidder makes his appearance, the fact shall be reported to the secretary of Fomento, who, by means of a decree which he shall cause to be published in the *Gaceta Oficial*, shall declare the mine to have been abandoned.

The grantee of an abandoned concession shall have no right to use the building or machinery of the mine to which said concession refers.

SEC. 68. Parties to whom a concession is made must pay the dues or taxes provided for in Title VIII of this code; and the failure to do so in the manner and at the time therein established shall render them liable in double the amount.

TITLE VIII.—*Dues, Imports, and Privileges*

SEC. 69. Parties in whose favor a concession is made shall have to pay, in the proper collector's office, 2 per cent. of the gross yield of the mine.

SEC. 70. The engineer inspectors of mines shall see that the provisions of the foregoing article is duly carried into effect.

SEC. 71. Machinery, tools and implements imported into the Republic to be used in the work of mines shall be exempted from duty.

SEC. 72. Working of what is called *greda gold*, or alluvia gold, by the system of *barrancoes*, shall be exempted from taxes of all kinds. The Federal Executive shall make such rules as may be proper in reference to this particular system of mining work.

TITLE IX.—*Terms and conditions under which the mines must be worked.*

SEC. 73. Mines must be worked subject to the following provisions :

SEC. 74. The National Executive shall create a number of mining circumscriptions or sections, each of which shall be divided into mineral districts. Care shall be taken in making this distribution that each section corresponds to a State of the Federation ; and in the federal territories each section shall embrace the territory itself.

SEC. 75. There shall be in the capital of the Republic an engineer technical inspector of mines, who shall keep an office, at the expense of the national government, provided with everything necessary. That office shall have topographical and geological maps of the section, and also maps of underground

works, collections of ores found in the locality, and all instruments and re-agents necessary for assay operations. These inspectors of mines shall visit every year their respective sections, and it shall be their duty to make a geological and mineralogical chart of each district, with all the indications suggested by study and experience.

It shall be also the duty of these inspectors to visit every year the mines of the Republic, either under exploration or in actual work, and take notice of all the methods followed, both in the subterraneous works of the mines, or in the assays, and to make a report about the general condition of the mines of their respective circumscriptions or sections, the improvements which may be made, and the defects which need to be corrected.

These engineer technical inspectors of mines are forbidden, as long as they are in office, to engage themselves in mining operations or acquire any interest in mines of any kind.

SEC. 76. Miners or persons in charge of a mine shall furnish the engineers or experts appointed to visit said mine all the elements necessary to do it in the proper way. They must exhibit their maps, plans, books, lists of laborers, etc., when required to do so, and also furnish all other information which may be needed to convey a full knowledge of the work done.

SEC. 77. The owners and the superintendents of mines are bound to keep in good condition of ventilation the pits, galleries and other works, so as to protect the laborers against asphyxia or any other harm arising out of the accumulation of deleterious gases or miasmas, or of infiltrations or accumulations of water.

SEC. 78. Superintendents and owners of mines are forbidden, under a fine of from 400 to 2,400 bolivars, besides the responsibility, civil or criminal, which they may incur in case of an accident, to cause or allow work to be done in any place where lamps and candles can not burn easily for want of air. They are forbidden, also, under a fine of from 200 to 1,200 bolivars, to cause or allow work to be done in darkness.

SEC. 79. Miners are bound to prop the ceilings and walls of the galleries and passages by means of scaffolds, or constructions of stone, or other adequate material, as required to keep them in a safe condition, and the failure to do so shall be punished by a fine of from 2,000 to 10,000 bolivars. A second offense of this kind shall entail the loss of the mine, if the required work is not done within the period which the engineer inspector of mines may designate.

SEC. 80. The owner of a mine the deepest works of which have fallen down, is bound to put them again in good working condition. The failure to do so shall subject him to a fine of from 400 to 2,000 bolivars; and in case of a second offense, he shall lose the mine if the works of repair are not completed within the period designated by three experts appointed, one by him, another by the President or Governor, and another who shall act as umpire in case of disagreement by the experts themselves.

If, in consequence of his failure to keep his own works in a condition of good drainage, some harm is done to another mine below, the owner shall be bound to pay such indemnification for damages as may be proper.

SEC. 81. In the galleries or passages whose inclination exceeds thirty-five degrees there shall be always a banister substantially fixed to the wall, so as to facilitate the entrance and exit of the laborers. If the average inclination reaches forty degrees, there shall be, besides the banister, some kind of steps worked in the rock itself or otherwise. The failure to comply with the provisions of this article shall be punished with a fine of from 200 to 2,000 bolivars.

SEC. 82. The ladders used in the mines shall be such as to insure the safety of the laborers.

SEC. 83. If the laborers have to be lowered into the mines by means of carts, cages or tubs, the superintendents shall be

bound to employ first-class cables and all other machinery adequate to avoid accidents.

SEC. 84. When, upon actual inspection or visit of a mine, the engineer inspector of the district should find that either the life of the laborers or the safety of the constructions themselves is endangered from any cause whatever, he shall order such measures to be taken as may be proper to remove that cause of danger. Should any claim be made against those measures, the highest civil authority of the locality shall take cognizance of the matter and render its decision, upon the report of one or more engineers, who shall be appointed for that purpose, at the expense of the claimant. But if, from the inspection of the engineer who first saw the mine, it appears that the danger is imminent, an order for the immediate suspension of the work shall be issued, all claims to the contrary notwithstanding.

SEC. 85. If in consequence of an accident in a mine, death or grave injury of one or more persons has been caused, or the safety of the laborers has been endangered, the owners and superintendents shall, under the penalty of a fine of 2,000 to 10,000 bolivars, report to the respective engineer inspector, who in union with another engineer or expert of the locality shall at once commence an investigation of what happened, and of its causes, and dictate thereupon such measures as may be proper to remove the causes of danger and prevent its consequences from being felt. To this end he shall have authority to use the tools, laborers, and animals of the mine, as well as everything in it which might be necessary to accomplish his purpose.

SEC. 86. For the proper organization of the mining service there shall be in each mining circumscription a government engineer inspector of mines, and if no engineer can be appointed there shall be in his place a competent mining expert, who before taking possession of his place shall prove before the secretary of Fomento that he is duly qualified for the position, on account of his practical knowledge. It shall be the duty of this engineer

inspector, or of the expert in his case, to watch the fulfillment of the present law in all that may affect the safety, order, and arrangement of the mines, and the promotion and progress of the mining industry.

SEC. 87. The engineers, or surveyors, inspector of mines shall also intervene in the demarkations of concessions or mining properties, and in all acts and transactions in mining matters which may affect the rights of the nation, either as to the ownership of the mines, or to its direct interest in the mining works,

SEC. 88. When no engineer inspector of mines exists in a locality, or when the matter in examination refers only to private indemnities, or to transactions in which the nation has no direct interest, simple experts shall be appointed by the judges, or government officials having said matters in their charge; but these experts shall be chosen amongst professional mining engineers, and if there is none, among fully accredited, honest, and competent miners.

SEC. 89. No one shall be appointed engineer inspector of mines who is not a mining engineer of the Republic.

The power to make the appointment is vested in the Executive, through the secretary of Fomento; and all the engineers inspectors of mines shall be at his immediate orders.

The technical inspector of mines shall have a salary of 800 bolivars per month, while in the capital of the Republic, and of 1,200 bolivars, also per month, when on a visit to some mining circumscription.

SEC. 90. The engineers inspectors of mines shall have the salary of 800 bolivars per month.

SEC. 91. The owners of mines, whether companies or private individuals, are bound to cause proper maps and scientific plans of their mines and subterraneous works to be made by professional civil or mining engineers; and said maps and plans shall be in three sections, namely, vertical, horizontal and inclined, with

the proper indication of the differences of level, so as to know when the vein goes up or comes down, and of the degrees and minutes of inclination of the galleries, chimneys, etc. The rectification of the measures for these plans must be made trigonometrically, and all the points of observations shall be referred to by means of rectangular co-ordinates to the correct meridian and parallel of the locality, so as to allow points of reference for subsequent measures to be fixed annually in all the labors.

SEC. 92. Every superintendent of a mine shall be bound to furnish the technical inspector, or engineer inspector of mines, copies of the plans of his mine, made in three sections, as provided before; and the said inspector shall mark in them all the additions or progress made during the year, and send them afterwards to the secretary of Fomento, that he may cause them to be kept in the archives of the technical inspector's office of the Republic.

SEC. 93. The inspector of mines shall visit annually the works of the mine, mark in the plan all the progress made and everything worthy to be noticed, and transmit every three months to the secretary of Fomento and to the President of the state, or governor of the territory, information of all the alterations made in the plan, and a report on the work done, the condition of the mine and of the buildings as far as safety is concerned, and on everything which in their opinion needs correction or improvement, or must be avoided.

SEC. 94. The grantees of a mine shall, under the penalty of a fine of 10,000 bolivars, furnish the inspectors all the facilities necessary to make these visits successful; cause their overseers and head workers to accompany them, and give them all the information they may ask for; show them their plans, and allow them to take a copy of the same if so they desire.

The payment of the fine referred to in this section shall be enforced, as soon as the violation is reported by the inspector, by the collector of the locality.

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SEC. 95. Should a strike take place among the laborers of a mine, the engineer inspector shall investigate what are the causes which produced it; and if his efforts to settle the difficulty amicably prove to be fruitless, he shall confine his action to watch for the preservation of order and the interests of the two parties, for which purpose, if necessary, he shall apply for assistance to the civil authority.

SEC. 96. The national Executive shall, according to its own judgment, order schools of mines to be established in towns or cities of importance near the principal mining districts.

Instruction shall be given in these schools on geology, mineralogy, chemistry, metallurgy, and assaying.

SEC. 97. The national Executive is authorized to create as many of these schools of mines as it may deem to be necessary, to provide for their support, and to make for them such rules and by-laws as may be proper.

SEC. 98. All mining companies, whether national or foreign, are bound to keep their books in the Spanish language, and in the manner and form provided by the code of commerce.

The failure to comply with this provision shall be punished with a fine of from 4,000 to 12,000 bolivars. Double amount shall be imposed in case of a second offense, besides all other proper means being resorted to to secure the proper compliance with these provisions.

SEC. 99. The executive shall make and promulgate a set of rules of mining police, which shall set forth particularly the rights and duties of the miners, the powers which in this matter of police are vested in the inspector of mines, the things to be done for the preservation of public health, and all that refers to the right of way and easements of drainage and common use.

TITLE X.—*Transitory provisions.*

SEC. 100. The owners of old concessions, granted either gratuitously or upon some valuable consideration, by any public authority whatsoever, and subsequently revalidated or not, which have not been worked as yet, shall be bound to present to the secretary of Fomento, within one year, to be counted from the promulgation of the present law, under penalty of forfeiture of the concession, the plans which are required by section 43.

SEC. 101. The secretary of Fomento shall, upon inspection of these plans, and the proper examination of the authenticity of the title which shall be filed before him, issue a new title, in the manner and form established by this law, in favor of the owner. But if the period of one year provided for in the foregoing article is allowed to pass without filing the papers therein referred to, the concessions shall be declared forfeited.

SEC. 102. The owners of old concessions in which the works once commenced were subsequently suspended shall be bound to resume work within the period of three years, under the penalty of forfeiture; and the said concessions shall be subject in everything to the present code, after the title or patent thereof is renewed, in the same manner as provided for in the preceding section.

SEC. 103. The owners of old concessions, whose mines are under actual work, shall file their titles, whether revalidated or not, with the secretary of Fomento, within one year, to be counted from the promulgation of the present code, and the secretary of Fomento shall issue in their favor a new title or patent, in the form established by this law.

SEC. 104. The federal Executive shall, whenever, upon special information to that effect, it may be deemed just, order a resurvey of the mines, so as to ascertain whether the owners

are or are not possessing what belongs to them according to the titles, and reduce the mining properties to their just limits.

SEC. 105. The mining companies existing at present are bound to organize the work of their mines in exact conformity with the provisions of the present code, under the penalties established in the same, within one year, to be counted from the date of its promulgation.

SEC. 106. All applications for mines which, at the date of the promulgation of the present code, have not been acted upon finally, shall be considered as not made or filed, and shall be sent to the archives. In case that two or more new applications for the same mine are filed, the secretary of Fomento shall give the preference to the one among those formerly filed and unacted, kept in the archives, which was first filed.

SEC. 107. The mining law of May 30, 1887, and the regulations for the fulfillment of the same of August 3 of the same year, are hereby repealed.

LIST OF THE PRESIDENTS OF THE AMERICAN
REPUBLICS.

		Executive Residence.
Argentine Republic	Señor Don José Evaristo Uriburu.....	Buenos Aires.
Bolivia.....	Señor Don Mariano Baptista.....	Sucre
Brazil.....	Señor Doctor Don Prudente de Moraes	Rio de Janeiro.
Chile.....	Señor Don Jorge Montt.	Santiago.
Colombia.....	Señor Don Miguel Antonio Caro.....	Bogota.
Costa Rica.....	Señor Don Rafael Iglesias.....	San José.
Ecuador.....	Señor General Don Eloy Alfaro.....	Quito.
Guatemala.....	General Don José Maria Reina Barrios	Guatemala City.
Haiti.....	L. M. F. Hyppolite.....	Port au Prince.
Honduras.....	Señor Don Policarpo Bonilla.	Tegucigalpa.
Mexico.....	General Don Porfirio Diaz.....	City of Mexico.
Nicaragua.....	Señor General Don José Santos Zelaya	Managua.
Paraguay.....	General Don Juan B. Egusquiza.....	Asunción.
Peru.....	Señor Don Nicolas de Piérola.....	Lima.
Salvador.....	Don Rafael Antonio Gutierrez.....	San Salvador.
Santo Domingo	Señor Don Ulises Heureaux.....	Santo Domingo.
United States..	Grover Cleveland.....	Washington, D.C.
Uruguay.....	Señor Don Idiarte Borda.....	Montevideo.
Venezuela.....	General Don Joaquin Crespo.....	Caracas.

UNITED STATES CONSULATES.

Frequent application is made to the Bureau for the address of United States Consuls in the South and Central American Republics. Those desiring to correspond with any consul can do so by addressing "The United States Consulate" at the point named. Letters thus addressed will be delivered to the proper person. It must be understood, however, that it is not the duty of consuls to devote their time to private business, and that all such letters may properly be treated as personal and any labor involved may be subject to charge therefor.

The following is a list of United States Consulates in the different Republics.

ARGENTINE REPUBLIC—

Buenos Aires.
Cordoba.
Rosario.

BOLIVIA—

La Paz.

BRAZIL—

Bahia.
Para.
Pernambuco.
Rio Grande do Sul.
Rio de Janeiro.
Santos.

CHILE—

Antofagasta.
Arica.
Coquimbo.
Iquique.
Talcahuano.
Valparaiso.

COLOMBIA—

Barranquilla.
Bogota.
Cartagena.
Colon (Aspinwall).
Medillin.
Panama.

COSTA RICA—

San José.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC—

Puerto Plata.
Samana.
Santo Domingo.

ECUADOR—

Guayaquil.
Bahia de Carragues.
Esmeraldas.
Manta.

GUATEMALA—

Guatemala.

UNITED STATES CONSULATES.

HAYTI—

Cape Haitien.
Port au Prince.

HONDURAS—

Ruatan.
Tegucigalpa.

MEXICO—

Acapulco.
Chihuahua.
Durango.
Ensenada.
Guaymas.
La Paz.
Matamoras.
Mazatlan.
Merida.
Mexico.
Nogales.
Nuevo Laredo.
Paso del Norte.
Piedras Negras.
Saltillo.

MEXICO—*Continued.*

Tampico.
Tuxpan.
Vera Cruz.

NICARAGUA—

Managua.
San Juan del Norte.

PARAGUAY—

Asunción.

PERU—

Callao.

SALVADOR—

San Salvador.

URUGUAY—

Colonia.
Montevideo.
Paysandu.

VENEZUELA—

La Guayra.
Maracaibo.
Puerto Cabello.

EXTRACTS FROM ANNUAL REPORTS.

BUREAU OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLICS,
No. 2 Jackson Place,
Washington, D. C.

Many communications are received by this Bureau indicating a misconception of the plan and scope of its work, as well as of the policy adopted in the distribution of its publications. As a full reply to those who believe themselves entitled to copies of every publication issued by the Bureau, the following extracts from recent Annual Reports are given :

FROM ANNUAL REPORT, 1893.

There is, however, a more important reason for desiring the success of this effort to place the publications of this Bureau in the hands of those willing to pay for them. The letters received every day speak strongly of an increasing desire to receive something free at the general expense. Probably few of those who thus place themselves in the category of applicants for charity realize the true situation. But they must understand the impossibility of supplying government publications at the general expense to all who apply. Perhaps, if questioned, they would declare themselves opposed to all forms of class legislation. Yet in their demands for public documents they are helping to extend the most expensive sort of such legislation. Those who believe in a republican form of government have too great faith in the institutions of their country to oppose an effort looking to the defeat of tendencies toward the worst forms of centralization. All such will learn with pleasure of efforts to extend information upon proper lines. The Bureau has received many cordial expressions of approval of the new method of distributing its publications from those who have been for a long time recipients of copies of every edition printed.

FROM ANNUAL REPORT, 1894.

At the date of my last report there had been but a short trial of the experiment of selling the publications of the Bureau. As knowledge of this policy became more widely extended the sales constantly increased, and the Bureau is in receipt of abundant evidence that those having

EXTRACTS FROM ANNUAL REPORTS.

need of its information are willing to pay the slight cost charged. There still remains in the minds of many applicants a misconception of the plan and scope of the work of the International Union of American Republics. In some cases application is made to members of Congress for full sets of the Bureau publications by constituents who assume that these are public documents, properly bound for library purposes and fitted to adorn shelves that might otherwise be empty. In others, librarians of public and institutional libraries, with a laudable desire to secure for the libraries in their charge as full a line of documents as are available, assume that because they have been made depositories of government publications, they are entitled to copies of all documents issued by this Bureau for a distinct commercial purpose.

As to the first class, it is noted with pleasure that in a very large majority of cases the applicants, when furnished with a circular stating the policy of selling the Bureau publications, have responded by remitting the price named. Although it has been an unpleasant duty to refuse applications for these documents, I believe the best interests of every legislator are consulted by a strict adherence to the plan adopted. It is quite clear that every member who sends to a constituent free copies of the Bureau Handbooks increases the demand for the same favor from other constituents, who assume that they have an equal right with those they know to have been favored. As to the second class, there has been more difficulty. Recognizing the purely commercial character of the Bureau, and the soundness of the principle that no privileges should be granted to a favored class, the lists of libraries to which the Bureau sends its publications has been carefully revised. The aim has been to utilize these libraries for the double purpose of placing information within reach of the public and for the better extension of a knowledge of the work of the Bureau. Mistakes may have been made, but in considering them it must be remembered that the decision is in all cases made without regard to any supposed right of the applicant to receive, and solely on the ground of what might be the effect on the prosperity of the Bureau.

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October ['95].—Brazil—Official Census; Costa Rica—Customs Tariff, 1894 (English, Spanish and Portuguese); Coffee Culture in Costa Rica; Tariff Modifications in Guatemala and Salvador (English, Spanish and Portuguese).

November ['95].—Extension of Telegraph Communication; Ecuador—Proposed Railway Extension; Mexico—The Alcabala Tax; Commerce and Resources of Yucatan; Uruguay—American Opportunities for Trade; Venezuela—Tariff Modifications (English, Spanish and Portuguese).

December ['95].—Honduras—New Agricultural Law; Mexico—Law Concerning Alienship and Naturalization; Venezuela—Commerce, Manufactures, &c.; Brazil—Cotton Industry in; Nicaragua—Tariff Changes; Peru—Sugar Industry in.

PRICE LIST OF PUBLICATIONS.

January [196].—Costa Rica—Banana Culture; Mexico—Price of Government Lands for Fiscal Year 1896-97; Venezuela—Cocoanut Culture; Peru—Decree Creating Salt Monopoly; Tariff Changes in Brazil and Uruguay.

February [196].—Mexico—Cultivation of Cacao, Vanilla, India-Rubber, Indigo and Bananas; Uruguay—Tariff Modifications (English, Spanish and Portuguese).

March [196].—Peru—Amendment to Peruvian Patent Law; Modification of Tobacco Duties; Honduras—Trade with the United States.

REPRINTS OF PUBLICATIONS NAMED ABOVE, AND BOUND TOGETHER IN PAPER, AS STATED BELOW.

	Price—Cents.
Vol. 1, Part 1.—First Annual Report, Hand-book No. 3, and Bread-stuffs in Latin America.....	60
Vol. 1, Part 2.—Mines and Mining Laws, Land and Immigration Laws, Commercial Information.....	60
Vol. 5, Part 1.—Tariffs: Argentine Republic, Brazil, Bolivia, British Possessions.....	40
Vol. 5, Part 2.—Tariffs: Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba and Puerto Rico, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua.....	40
Vol. 5, Part 3.—Tariffs: Peru, Salvador, Santo Domingo, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela.....	40

 The Commercial Directories of the different Republics of Central and South America, issued some years ago by the Bureau, are no longer included in the above list, as they are not reliable.

CLINTON FURBISH, *Director.*

WASHINGTON, MARCH 1, 1896.

These publications may be purchased from Rand, McNally & Co., Chicago and New York.

VALUE OF AMERICAN COINS.

The following table shows the value in United States gold, of coins representing the monetary units of the Central and South American republics, and Mexico, estimated quarterly by the Director of the United States mint, in pursuance of act of Congress :

ESTIMATE JANUARY 1, 1896.

COUNTRIES.	STANDARD.	UNIT.	VALUE OF U. S. GOLD AND SILVER.	COINS.
ARGENTINE REPUBLIC..	Gold and Silver.	Peso.	0.96,5 (fixed).	Gold—Argentine (\$4.82,4) and $\frac{1}{4}$ Argentine Silver—Peso and divisions.
BOLIVIA.....	Silver.	Boliviano.	0.49,1.	Silver—Boliviano and divisions.
BRAZIL.....	Gold.	Milreis.	0.54,6 (fixed).	{ Gold—5, 10 and 20 milreis. { Silver— $\frac{1}{2}$, 1 and 2 milreis.
CENTRAL AMERICA.....	Silver.	Peso.	0.49,1.	{ Gold—Onza and divisions. { Silver—Peso and divisions.
CHILE.....	Gold and Silver.	Peso.	0.91,2 (fixed).	{ Gold—Escudo (\$1.82,4), doubloon (\$4.56), condor (\$9.12,3). { Silver—Peso and divisions.
COLOMBIA.....	Silver.	Peso.	0.49,1.	{ Gold—Condor (\$9.64,7), double condor. { Silver—Peso and divisions.
CUBA.....	Gold and Silver.	Peso.	0.92,6 (fixed).	{ Gold—Doubloon (\$5.01,7). { Silver—Peso.
ECUADOR.....	Silver.	Sucre.	0.49,1.	{ Gold—Condor (\$9.64,7) and divisions. { Silver—Sucre and divisions.
MEXICO.....	Silver.	Dollar.	0.53,3.	{ Gold—Dollar (\$0.98,3), 2 $\frac{1}{2}$, 5, 10 and 20 dols. { Silver—Dollar (or peso) and divisions.
HAITI.....	Gold and Silver.	Gourde.	0.96,5.	Silver—Gourde.
PERU.....	Silver.	Sol.	0.49,1.	Silver—Sol and divisions.
VENEZUELA.....	Gold and Silver.	Bolivar.	0.19,3 (fixed).	{ Gold—5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 bolivars. { Silver—5 bolivars.

Uruguay has the gold standard without a gold currency. One million dollars in silver of various denominations were coined two years ago,

VALUE OF AMERICAN COINS.

and \$1,000,000 more are now being issued. This currency is accepted as legal tender.

Paraguay has no gold or silver coins of its own stamping. The silver peso of other South American republics circulates there, and has the same value as in the countries that issue them.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

The following table gives the chief weights and measures in commercial use in Mexico and the republics of Central and South America, and their equivalents in the United States:

DENOMINATION.	WHERE USED.	U. S. EQUIVALENTS.
Are	Metric.....	0.02471 acre.
Arobo	Paraguay.....	25 pounds.
Arroba (dry).....	Argentine Republic.....	25.3175 pounds.
do	Brazil.....	32.38 pounds.
do	Cuba.....	25.3664 pounds.
do	Venezuela.....	25.4624 pounds.
Arroba (liquid).....	Cuba and Venezuela.....	4.263 gallons.
Barril.....	Argentine Republic and Mexico.....	20.0787 gallons.
Carra	Mexico and Salvador.....	300 pounds.
Centavo.....	Central America.....	4.3631 gallons.
Cuadra.....	Argentine Republic.....	4.3 acres.
do	Paraguay.....	78.9 yards.
do	Paraguay (square).....	8.077 square feet.
do	Uruguay.....	2 acres (nearly).
Cubic Meter.....	Metric.....	35.3 cubic feet.
Fanega (dry).....	Central America.....	1.5745 bushels.
do	Chile.....	2.575 bushels.
do	Cuba.....	1.599 bushels.
do	Mexico.....	1.54728 bushels.
do	Uruguay (double).....	7.776 bushels.
do	Uruguay (single).....	3.888 bushels.
do	Venezuela.....	1.599 bushels.
Frasco.....	Argentine Republic.....	2.5096 quarts.
do	Mexico.....	2.5 quarts.
Gram.....	Metric.....	15.432 grains.
Hectare.....	do	2.471 acres.
Hectoliter (dry).....	do	2.838 bushels.
do (liquid).....	do	26.417 gallons.
Kilogram (kilo).....	do	2.3046 pounds.
Kilometer.....	do	0.621376 mile.
League (land).....	Paraguay.....	4.633 acres.
Libra	Argentine Republic.....	1.0127 pounds.
do	Central America.....	1.043 pounds.
do	Chile.....	1.014 pounds.
do	Cuba.....	1.0161 pounds.
do	Mexico.....	1.01465 pounds.
do	Peru.....	1.0143 pounds.
do	Uruguay.....	1.0143 pounds.
do	Venezuela.....	1.0161 pounds.
Liter.....	Metric.....	1.0567 quarts.
Livre.....	Guiana.....	1.0791 pounds.
Mauzana.....	Costa Rica.....	1.5-6 acres.

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

DENOMINATION.	WHERE USED.	U. S. EQUIVALENTS.
Marc	Bolivia	0.597 pounds.
Meter	Metric	39.37 inches.
Pie	Argentine Republic.....	0.9478 foot.
Quintal	do do	101.42 pounds.
do	Brazil	130.06 pounds.
do	Chile, Mexico and Peru.....	101.61 pounds.
do	Paraguay	100 pounds.
do	Metric	220.46 pounds.
Suerte.....	Uruguay	2,700 Cuadras (see cuadro).
Vara	Argentine Republic.....	34.1275 inches.
do	Central America.....	38.871 inches.
do	Chile and Peru	33.297 inches.
do	Cuba.....	33.384 inches.
do	Mexico.....	33 inches.
do	Paraguay	34 inches.
do	Venezuela.....	33.384 inches.

METRIC WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

METRIC WEIGHTS.

- Milligram (1/1000 gram) equals 0.0154 grain.
- Centigram (1/100 gram) equals 0.1543 grain.
- Decigram (1/10 gram) equals 1.5432 grains.
- Gram equals 15.432 grains.
- Decagram (10 grams) equals 0.3527 ounce.
- Hectogram (100 grams) equals 3.5274 ounces.
- Kilogram (1,000 grams) equals 2.2046 pounds.
- Myriagram (10,000 grams) equals 22.046 pounds.
- Quintal (100,000 grams) equals 220.46 pounds.
- Millier or tonnea—ton (1,000,000 grams) equals 2,204.6 pounds.

METRIC DRY MEASURE.

- Millimeter (1/1000 liter) equals 0.061 cubic inch.
- Centiliter (1/100 liter) equals 0.6102 cubic inch.
- Deciliter (1/10 liter) equals 6.1022 cubic inches.
- Liter equals 0.908 quart.
- Decaliter (10 liters) equals 9.08 quarts.
- Hectoliter (100 liters) equals 2.938 bushels.
- Kiloliter (1,000 liters) equals 1.308 cubic yards.

METRIC LIQUID MEASURE.

- Millimeter (1/1000 liter) equals 0.27 fluid ounce.
- Centiliter (1/100 liter) equals 0.338 fluid ounce.
- Deciliter (1/10 liter) equals 0.845 gill.
- Liter equals 1.0567 quarts.

METRIC WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

Decaliter (10 liters) equals 2.6417 gallons.
Hectoliter (100 liters) equals 26.417 gallons.
Kiloliter (1000 liters) equals 264.17 gallons.

METRIC MEASURES OF LENGTH.

Millimeter (1/1000 meter) equals 0.0394 inch.
Centimeter (1/100 meter) equals 0.3937 inch.
Decimeter (1/10 meter) equals 3.937 inches.
Meter equals 39.37 inches.
Decameter (10 meters) equals 393.7 inches.
Hectometer (100 meters) equals 328 feet 1 inch.
Kilometer (1,000 meters) equals 0.62137 mile (3,280 feet 10 inches).
Myriameter (10,000 meters) equals 6.2137 miles.

METRIC SURFACE MEASURE.

Centare (1 square meter) equals 1,550 square inches.
Are (100 square meters) 119.6 square yards.
Hectare (10,000 square meters) equals 2,471 acres.

The metric system has been adopted by the following named countries: Argentine Republic, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, United States of America, United States of Colombia and Venezuela.

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